



The Steeple

July/August 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”
(Philippians 1:6)

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Recently, I have been thinking about things coming to a completion. During Annual Conference on June 18th, our former Associate Pastor, Luke Whipple, was ordained. Our current Associate Pastor, Matt Scott was commissioned as a provisional deacon and received his seminary diploma from United Seminary in the mail the same week. This made his graduation in May official!

These important steps in their careers mark the end of some things. For Pastor Luke, the long journey towards ordination has concluded. Pastor Matt's years of education have ended even though he still has some work to do until he is ordained.

As I prepared to walk into the service of ordination and commissioning, I remembered that it has been 30 years since my elder's ordination on June 16, 1991. Looking back over my ministry, I realized that in many ways the milestones achieved by these young pastors do not really mark the end. After formal education is completed, there are things to learn. There are lessons that only experience can teach. There will also be articles to read, podcasts to listen to and seminars to attend. God continues to call and shape one's vocation even after ordination.

Recently, I attended a funeral of a colleague, who was a retired pastor in our Annual Conference. He was 84 years old and still serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry. As I worked with him, I was in awe of the experience he brought, the questions he asked candidates and the grace he extended. God was doing a work in him right up to the end of his earthly life.

As the Covid-19 pandemic appears to be coming to an end, many of us are eyeing a return to normal. I am convinced that we will not be able to go back completely to the ways things were. God is doing a new thing in our midst. For instance, some of our committees will continue to meet via Zoom, while others will return to in person meetings. We will continue to livestream worship and perfect an online ministry presence. Our Lighthouse Dinners might evolve as well. The ministries of our church will grow and adapt to the changing times. God is still at work!

The apostle Paul reminded the Philippians and us that God will continue to do a good work within us as God's people. I know that the Lord is not finished with us yet, either individually or as His Church. I am excited to see the work God continues to do in all of us!

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

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

The Neighborhood Table | July 1 & Aug. 5| 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 | July 6 & Aug. 10 | Fellowship Hall

The Mission Team is committed to begin serving a monthly meal for The Lighthouse. Our vision is to be able to serve our neighbors in New Fellowship Hall whenever covid restrictions are lifted. 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 cnik-skol@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Digging Deeper | July 11| 9:45am| Wesley Room A New Look At 6 Parables

DIGGing Deeper will be studying 6 parables used by Jesus to teach important concepts using a DVD based study. Gain powerful historical insights and perspective-shifting cultural context behind the parables. Each session begins with a video from the applicable areas in Israel. The six sessions include:
The Coming of the Kingdom: Weeds, Mustard Seeds, Yeast

The Grace of the Kingdom: Two Debtors
The God of the Kingdom: The Prodigal Son
The Demand of the Kingdom: Treasure and Pearls
The Mission of the Kingdom: The Wedding Banquet
The Fulfillment of the Kingdom: Sheep and Goats

Women's Bible Study| 10am| F. Hall

The following three sessions MAY all be outside just like last year – we will determine that as we go – and as we hear from those of you who have not attended because we have been inside as to whether you might be willing to come indoors this summer (WE MISS YOU!!). It is easier to use the equipment, tables, and chairs inside Fellowship Hall – but we also want everyone to feel safe, so we can also choose to meet outside again like we did last summer. These sessions will all begin at 10am.

#2 – July 22nd
#3 – August 19th

Griefshare Monthly Summer Sessions

July 14th, August 11th – 7pm

**New Session Series begins weekly September 8, 2021

Marcia Shipley 724-272-2467
Bill & Cathy Dambach 724-443-0324
Marge Kirkpatrick 724-443-2272

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

2:00 - 7:00pm

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

3832 Gibsonia Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044

There are two ways to make your appointment...

To register by phone, please call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767).

To register online, go to www.redcrossblood.org, select "Donate Blood" and click on "Find a Drive" or "Schedule an Appointment." When asked to enter the zip code or sponsor code, type in Trinity Gibsonia. This will take you to the location for our drive so that you can register.

Bakerstown Book Club – Next Meeting is Wednesday August 18th at 7:00pm

The book that was chosen to be discussed is A Piece of the Moon by Chris Fabry. Come along and join us for a fun discussion. There's always chocolate!

Camping Scholarships Available

The UMM are proud to be offering scholarships again for any youth that attends a faith-based camp this summer.

This year, the UMM will contribute \$400 towards the cost of the camp fee. (Or the total cost of the camp if the fee is less than \$400). A message to all Parents: why not get a camping brochure from the Information Desk and look at the camp possibilities with your children. A week of faith-based fun and adventure would be a great present for any child! Scholarship applications are available in the Narthex near the camping information.

Announcements....

Start saving your attic treasures because the **Junque Sale** is coming back in the fall of 2021! This BUMC tradition helps to fund projects and ministries sponsored by the mission team. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin for more information.

Upcoming dates:

The Neighborhood Table in Sharpsburg: July 1 and August 5

The Drive Thru Dinner at Bakerstown: July 6 and August 10

Notes of appreciation continue to come in for the DTD:

"You put on a whole new twist on chicken - finger lickin' good! Thank you for your dedication in a hot kitchen on a humid day. Thanks bunches!"

"That was delicious chicken...

Sign me up for July..."

"Dinner was amazing tonight!!! Is it possible to get that sauce recipe?"

Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of July: canned tuna and for the month of August: canned chicken

Mission Trip Needs: Every mission trip takes 3 "p's." "Players" – those who attend the mission trip. "Payers" – those who make donations to help cover trip costs. "Prayers" – those who pray for the team while we are preparing and on the trip.

At this time, we are asking for donations to help cover some of the inflated building materials. Donations can be made to Bakerstown UMC with "Mission Trip Donation" in the memo of the check. We are also asking for "pray-ers." Sign up today at one of the entrances.

Pastor Matt is currently attending his Annual Training with the PA 28th Division Band. If you would like to attend one of the concerts that the band is performing, here is a list of the concert performances:

Sunday, June 27, Legion Keener Park – Latrobe - 2pm

Monday, June 28, Borough Park – New Wilmington - 7pm

Tuesday, June 29, Veterans Memorial Park – Blairsville - 7pm

Wednesday, June 30, Derry Community Park – Derry - 6:30pm

Thursday, July 1, Memorial Park – Ebensburg - 7pm

Friday, July 2, Minor's Park – Windber - 7pm

Saturday, July 3, Canonsburg 4th of July Parade - 10am

Come enjoy some live music in a safe, outdoor atmosphere! (And get a glimpse of what Pastor Matt does when he goes to drill)

Note of Appreciations

Thank you Amazon shoppers. The Missions team received \$34.51 for your purchases from January 1 to March 31, 2021. The Missions team says thanks for your online purchases.

Kevin McGrath would like to thank the congregation for the prayers for his family after the passing of his brother Larry.

From the Prayer Corner – Giving Thanks for Summer!

Father, Creator of all, thank You for Summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty we see all around us, for the multi-colored flowers, the fresh green grass and green leafy trees, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the laughter of children at play, people strolling in the park, families gathered around picnic tables, and the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time we have to be with our friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw us closer to You this summer. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. Teach us how we can pray, no matter where we are or what we are doing. Warm our souls with the awareness of Your presence and light our path with Your Word and Counsel. As we enjoy Your creation, create in us a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Summer brings long warm days... the pace of life slows down some ... there's a time for picnics and play and rest in the shade... a time for watching fireflies dancing in the air at night. May we all help make our homes a place of relaxation, joy, love, and peace. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summertime too.

Let's put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer.

We ask this through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

(Portions taken from the Internet - Author Unknown)

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

Contact Lora Stafura lstafura@bakerstownumc.org, or Cathy Dambach hwdambach@consolidated.net, or Heather Brown hldrdb@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!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Project of Samaritan's Purse

Our church is again participating in this powerful "Shoebox" Ministry that changes lives of children, their families and friends. Shoeboxes open doors for presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ. We demonstrate the love of Jesus by our gifts freely given to children aged 2 - 12 around the world affected by war, poverty, natural disasters or disease.

Between now and Nov. 15 we are collecting items to fill shoeboxes. Place yours in the OCC box in the Narthex. Please remember, anything that will MELT, LEAK, BREAK or WAR-RELATED cannot be accepted. Gift ideas include: Stuffed animals, Personal care items, School supplies, Small toys, Clothing and Accessories, Bibles, Activity paperbacks, Small tools, Crafts. ** Enjoy shopping while being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Other Options: You may wish to write a note inside an envelope, send your photo, send a picture of Jesus to be placed in one of the shoeboxes. Money is also accepted; it pays for transportation or Greatest Journey discipleship workbooks.

PRAY - for the child receiving each shoebox and for the giver.

**Detailed gift list by category is posted on bulletin board near choir room.



Vacation Bible School

July 12th-16th 2021 9am-12pm

Contact: Rachel Whipple at rachel.l.whipple@gmail.com or
Lora Stafura at lstafura@bakerstownumc.org or 724-443-3184

Please Read Below changes made due to COVID-19 this year:

Registration is limited to 60 children this year on a first come first serve basis

Masks are required

Children must be 5 years old at the time of VBS to register

5 years old through those entering 5th grade

We are going to have in person VBS this year! Please use the link below and fill out 1 form per child.

REGISTRATION FORM

Backpacks of Blessing

Everyone is invited to donate 1 or more backpacks for local children in need. Bring your donation to our church and pray a blessing over our local schools for the 2021/2022 year.

*****Tags are available on the information center now*****

Backpacks can be either for a boy or girl AND should include all of the following:

Elementary

Pens
Pencils
Crayons
Construction Paper
Lined Paper
Elmer's Glue
Folders
Book Covers
Ruler
Colored Pencils
Scissors
Erasers
Travel pack Kleenex
Small bottle hand sanitizer
Composition Books
Glue Sticks
Pencil Case
Pencil Sharpener
Lunch Bag
Note Cards -Lined and Unlined

High School

Pens
Pencils
White Out
Note Cards – Lined and Unlined
Graph Paper
Binder Dividers
Travel pack Kleenex
Small bottle hand sanitizer
Composition Books
Highlighters
Small Stapler
Three Ring Binders
Scientific Calculator
Folders
Book Covers
Lined Paper
Glue Sticks
Post It Notes
Construction Paper
Ruler
Colored Pencils
Scissors

Day School Chalkboard



**Join us at our Summer
Camp for Preschoolers and
Kindergarten bound
friends!**

Summer is just around the corner and we are looking forward to a fun filled summer with our summer camps! If you know a little one who may be interested in attending, please share! All the details can be found on our website including a registration form.

***New this Year: Camp for those children who have completed Kindergarten and will enter First Grade in the Fall!**

Spaces are very limited in all camps as we will continue to follow the latest Covid protocols.

Children heading to First Grade will follow the same themes with a sprinkling of reading and math fun to help prevent the summer learning slump. This year's Summer Camp will be packed with

FUN and EXCITING activities that are related to the following weekly themes for all:

Session 3: "Animal Adventures" – July 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Session 4: "Camping Capers" - July 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

Minimum Age: Children must be 3 by September 1 **and must be potty-trained. (Completely self-reliant in the bathroom.)** Age groups will be separated into different classrooms.

Now registering for the 2021 – 2022 School Year! We still have a few openings in our preschool and full day kindergarten program for the upcoming school year. Please share with anyone looking for a wonderful program for their little one! We offer classes for children ages 3 through Kindergarten.

July & August Birthdays

07/02 Russ Callenberg	07/24 Richard Sieman	08/01 Jacob Meuschke	08/18 Eric Olson
07/03 Carol Skolnik	07/26 Dorothy Sarver	08/02 Wes Shipley	08/19 Allisa Negley
07/03 Jane Ditmore	07/26 Bonnie Baird	08/02 Lora Stafura	08/19 John Matty
07/06 Evelyn Dick	07/27 Jodi Miller	08/03 Liam Kennah	08/19 Bob Rodgers
07/06 Evangeline Whipple	07/27 Parvez Khambatta	08/03 Izzy Banjak	08/21 Braden Sutter
07/06 Chelsea Amick	07/28 Carol Redman	08/06 Cindy Rice	08/23 Lisa Banjak
07/07 Sam Cramer	07/29 Katelyn Macik	08/06 Pamm Holcomb	08/25 Katelyn Humenik
07/09 Denise Staub	07/30 Frank Wood	08/06 Shannon Sworden,	08/26 Janet Allaman
07/09 John Berkner	07/30 Michael Matty	08/06 Heather Ladesic	08/27 Keith Irwin
07/10 Dorothy Miller	07/30 Heather Detar	08/08 Darrick Brown	08/29 Alana McGrath
07/10 Kathleen Meuschke		08/08 Robert Ladesic	08/30 Joseph Knochel
07/11 Dan Himes		08/10 Brad Kyle	08/31 Micah Lowell
07/12 Louise Wu		08/12 Zach Meuschke	08/31 Brittanie Cosgrove
07/15 Teresa Nucci		08/12 Bob Knochel	
07/20 Caleb Stevens		08/13 Lori Waite	
07/20 Josh Banjak		08/13 Palmer Holcomb	
07/21 Leslie Olson		08/13 Joyce Chalfant	
07/21 Brock Leasure		08/15 Mike Justus	
07/23 Joan Donaldson		08/16 Louise Himes	
07/23 John Staub		08/17 Jennifer Vulhop	

July & August Anniversaries

July

07/03 Greg & Sheria Mason
 07/05 Dan & Mary Pouchot
 07/07 Wilson & Marlene Haller
 07/08 Doug & Lindsey Soxman
 07/08 Rich & Tahnee Hines
 07/12 Paul & Laurie McLeister
 07/20 Reed & Ginny Campbell
 07/25 Greg & Jane Ditmore
 07/25 Darrick & Heather Brown
 07/31 Bob & Denise Grier
 07/31 Jaison & Becky Rinker

August

08/01 John & Jen Humenik
 08/01 Micah & Katie Lowell
 08/02 Robert & Gayle Santillo
 08/03 Rich & Patti Kenzie
 08/08 Don & Janet Allaman, Sr.
 08/10 Luke & Rachel Whipple
 08/12 Andrew & Heather Detar
 08/13 Mike & Emily Acquavita
 08/16 Aaron & Amy Jewitt
 08/17 Phil & Stephanie Swisher
 08/18 John & Debbie Brumberg
 08/21 Bernard & Jayne Cain
 08/27 Dave & Dorothy Sarver
 08/28 Roger & Kay Cramer

Bakerstown United Methodist Church
5760 William Flynn Highway
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724-443-3184
www.bakerstownumc.org



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

Staff:

Rev. Keith Dunn
Senior Pastor
kdunn@bakerstownumc.org

Rev. Matthew Scott
Associate Pastor
msscott@bakerstownumc.org

Joyce Gindlesperger
Director of Music
jgindlesperger@bakerstownumc.org

Rachel Whipple
Children's Ministry
rwhipple@bakerstownumc.org

Lora Stafura
Office Administrator
lstafura@bakerstownumc.org

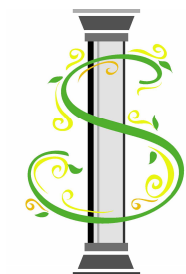
Dear Friends

As we move toward a full relaunch of our ministry at BUMC this September, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is in the process of hiring someone to lead our children's and youth ministries. Please help us spread the word by sharing the following with any interested and qualified individuals you may know:

Bakerstown United Methodist Church is seeking a Children's and Youth Ministry Director for 20 to 25 hours a week. All inquiries can be made to Bakerstownumchurch@gmail.com or Bakerstown UMC, Attention: Denise, 5760 William Flynn Highway, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Please join me in praying for the committee as we work through this process and that God will raise up the right person to lead us. Blessings, Pastor Keith

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

	May 2021	YTD May 2021	YTD May 2020
Donations:	\$42,133.00	\$167,753.93	\$229,215.29
Expenses:	\$36,001.00	\$168,861.51	\$219,668.07

Hello church family....and I can say that you really are family! It has been good to see you and sneak in a few hugs. All of our bills have been paid. May was a five Sunday month, for those that noticed the increase in income and expenses compared to last month. We transferred \$ 1,000.00 into our savings for Major Projects this month. The savings for Future Endeavors was capped by the Church Council, so there will not be anymore savings into that fund until it is necessary.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 724-443-2847. Kay Cramer, financial secretary