

The Steeple

From the Pastor's Desk

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,* the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10b-11)

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! I am writing this as we approach the celebration of our Savior’s birth. I love the Christmas season and I anticipate the sacred moments of the worship services on Christmas Eve. In those weeks building up to the holiday, I enjoy the music, the decorations, the exchanging of gifts and all the festivities. While those things are part of this wonderful time of the year, most of us would agree that the birth of God’s Son is the most important gift of all!

We can understand the excitement that surrounds the birth of a child. When a child is born, there is great joy for the parents and the family! This is especially true for a first born. A couple that I know recently had their first child. I have enjoyed seeing his pictures on Facebook and the joy they have shared. Even greater than the excitement of parents is that of the child’s grandparents. I have often joked with first time grandparents about how enthusiastic they are. A birth brings joy and excitement.

Much of this excitement is because a birth is a new beginning. When Jesus was born, it signaled a new beginning for humanity. God had sent a Savior to a world in need. God had fulfilled his promises to his people. God was doing a new thing!

I find it interesting that the birth of Jesus is so often connected to the beginning of a new year through the saying, “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!” After all, the new year is just a human way of marking time. Occasionally, it is depicted as a baby. The change of the calendar symbolizes a new beginning. Some people will start a new diet or exercise program on the first day of the New Year. For others, the biggest change will be the need to be deliberate about writing the correct year on something that needs dated!

I am excited about the things God will do in and through our church in 2019. I am sure there will be a mixture of good and bad events in our lives. Through it all, we know that the gift given at Christmas is a Savior, who is with us. Let us enter this new year with hope that will continue to do great things for us!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Pastor Keith

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP! ON SUNDAYS AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Sunday School at 9:45 am Sunday Nursery ALWAYS available!

Something for Everyone.....

*****This is a reminder from Financial Secretary, Kay Cramer:***** Contributions for the year 2018 will be accepted until **Sunday, January 6, 2019**. All checks must be dated for 2018 and in Kay Cramer's hand by **Sunday, January 6, 2019**. If you have any questions, please give Kay a call at 724-443-2847. ***

The Neighborhood Table

BUMC is continuing to partner with the Fox Chapel UMC to provide meals to the Sharpsburg Community. The next scheduled meal we will be serving is on **January 3rd**. 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.

Women at the Well Sunday Morning Small Group – Beginning Sunday, January 6th, we will be starting a New Discussion Series: “Finding God in the Whirlwind”.

Women at the Well is a very informal women's discussion group, meeting in the Library, 10:00am to 10:50am on Sunday mornings. Bring your coffee or tea and drop in any time for some fun, fellowship, and good discussion. Any and all women are invited to attend. We hope to see you there!

F.A.I.T.H. Foster and Adoption, Inspiration, Training, and Hope Meeting the first SUNDAY of every month on **January 6th at 12:30pm**.

Open to families that have or are considering opening their homes for foster or adoption. We will provide a Christ Centered approach to offering support and education to these families. Childcare will be provided. Please contact the church office at 724-443-3184 with any questions.

New Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study begins **January 10th at 9am**. Taste and See: Discovering God Among the Butchers, Bakers, & Fresh Food Makers by Margaret Feinberg.

You are invited on a delectable pilgrimage to discover the secret to savoring every day. The Psalmist declared, “*Taste and see that the Lord is good*” (Ps 34:8), so Margaret Feinberg, one of America's most beloved Bible teachers, decided to take the invitation literally. She embarked on a global culinary and spiritual adventure descending 410 feet into a salt mine, baking fresh matzo at Yale University, harvesting olives off the Croatian coast, and tasting succulent figs at a premier farm—all to discover the truth in such a simple verse. With each person she encountered, she asked, “*How do you read the Scripture in light of what you do every day?*”

Please come join us for this 6 week study as we grow together in God's Word. Sign up at the Information Desk. Study Guides are \$7.00.

NEW Bible study for parents with young children:

come join us bi-weekly for fellowship, encouragement and small group discussion at our new Bible study geared toward parents of young children.

Starting **Thursday, January 10th from 6:15-7:30 pm** in the Church Library. There is no time commitment- come as you are and as you can. Childcare will be provided. If you are interested in attending or have any questions please contact Katie Lowell at klowell33@gmail.com or 412-760-2682.

Kingdom Kids

- The program will run the 2nd Friday of the month from 6:00-8:30pm
- All children 4 years old to 5th grade are welcome to participate
- Children do NOT need to be members of Bakerstown UMC to attend!
- We will close each evening with a service project
- All registrations are due the Sunday before the date of Kingdom kids.

Friday, January 11th

If you would like information on the KINGDOM KIDS program, please contact Rachel at rwhipple@bakerstownumc.org or 724-443-3184

UN-Hanging of the Greens ! We are asking for help, un-decorating the church, please come on **January 12th** to take down the decorations. We will be starting at 9:00am

Soul Sisters- Bible Study Group that will meet the 2ND Monday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00PM. We will have a time of biblical study/devotion, discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Women with teenage daughters are encouraged to bring those young ladies along to participate. It's just once a month with no pressure and no homework except for an optional challenge each month. Bring a snack to share if you wish. We will meet in the Library. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 724-443-3184. **Our next meeting will be January 14th**

Prime Timers-This fun group meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month for food, fun and fellowship! Anyone interested in joining this group, mark your calendar, NOW for **January 16th at 11:30**. Bring a pot luck dish to share and a big appetite. We will be playing games and just having a great time in fellowship. This group is open to anyone in the congregation wishing to have a good time with friends.

Bakerstown Happenings....

GriefShare Outreach Ministry 2019 Winter/Spring Schedule

January 16th and February 20th at 7pm. NEW weekly meetings begin March 13th through May 29th, Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm till 8:30pm in the Wesley Room. 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 co-led by Rev. Bill Dambach, Marcia Shipley, Marge Kirkpatrick and Janet Pagniello. GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the church or community. All are welcome.

All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast! Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, January 19th** (8:00 - 11:00 AM) and a great price (Adults = \$6, kids age 6-12 = \$2.50 and under age 6 eat for free). Enjoy all you can eat of made-to-order pancakes, sausage, bacon, home fries, eggs, and beverages. Be served by our wonderful Bakerstown United Methodist Men. All proceeds support their outreach efforts. Contact Roger Cramer at 724-443-2847 if you have questions, or if you wish to join our UMM Group!

A Stitch and a Prayer Saturday, January 19th at 10am to 2pm. Sewing, knitting and crocheting blankets and prayer shawls for Linus Project, baptisms and ill in our church. Need help sorting, sewing, ironing, pinning, cutting.....all hands welcome. Bring a lunch!!!!

If you sew, crochet, or knit your talent can be used in making quilts for Project Linus, shawls for shut-ins or even lap robes for people in nursing homes. If you are not able to join us when we meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10-2, please contact Louise Himes, Mary Pouchot or Marge Kirkpatrick if you have questions regarding how you can help.

Body-n-Soul — Is exercise part of your new years resolution? Did you know Bakerstown has its own small group of dedicated exercise enthusiasts? This small group will “pump you up” physically and spiritually. You can join either class, when available, or just drop in! No need to pre-register. **Choose from Saturday mornings at 8:30-9:30 a.m. , Wednesday nights 7:00-8:00 pm, or do both in the week for a better workout regimen.** Each class is \$6.00. Motivating personal trainer, Andy Jakub, is licensed and certified.

Bakerstown Book Club – Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 13th**, at 7:00pm at the home of Izetta Wilson. Two books have been chosen to discuss: When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin and Marilla of Green Gables by Sarah McCoy. If you love to read, join us on February 13th, whether you've read the books

or not. Please just come along and join us for food, fun, and fellowship. All “Book Lovers” are welcome!! There's always chocolate!!

Costa Rica Mission Trip ~ 2019

When: July 6-13(or 14), 2019

Where: Carrillos, Costa Rica – *Closest large city is Alajuela, Costa Rica*

Who Can Go: Anyone who has completed 8th grade to adult.

Why You Should Go: We have been in relationship with *La Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Palabra Viva* (The Living Word Evangelical Methodist Church) for over 15 years. In that time we have sent several work groups down to serve in construction of the church building, as well as providing ministry to the children and women of the church and wider community. In the past several years, we have also hosted the pastor and founder of the church, Rev. Eddier Cortes, as a guest to Bakerstown UMC. *La Iglesia, Palabra Viva* is a church that has been welcoming and deeply appreciative of our presence and help over the years. But any help we have offered has been far more greatly repaid by their love, kindness, and generosity they have demonstrated to our groups. Your life will be changed, your vision of the kingdom of God broadened, and your love for your brothers and sisters in Christ will deepen on a trip to Carrillos, Costa Rica.



How do I sign up? There are two ways. There is a sign-up sheet in Bakerstown UMC on the information desk. Otherwise there is a sign-up link on the church website under “current events.”

Signing up and coming to the meeting is not a firm commitment, but lets me know of your interest. An initial deposit won't be collected until January 2019. If you are interested but have financial concerns, please come to the meeting to learn how you can be helped (*Money should not be the final obstacle in order to serve God in mission.*)



Something for Everyone.....

Committee News: As the new year begins we would like to welcome all the new committee members:

Church Council

Amy Jewett-Secretary
Mark Jorden

Finance

Pam Lunn
Jaison Rinker
Lake Barrett—Chair

Trustees

Sam Cramer
Heather Detar
Ray Wilson

SPRC

Denise Grier
Ken Haselrig
Wally Swarmer
Sharon Platt—Chair

Nominations

Kay Cramer
Celine Haselrig
Mary Pouchot

Mission Team Chairs

Carol Skolnik & Maria Stewart

Alt. Conference Del.

Tim Shipley

Please be sure to keep an eye on the bulletin and newsletters for upcoming meetings.

If you are new to a committee in 2019, please make sure the church office has a current email address so that you can receive meeting notices and other important information throughout the year.

Thank you. Please email the church office at lstafura@bakerstownumc.org

We also want to thank those that served over the past 3 years:

Church Council

At Large Members

Carl Stevens
Chuck Koval –Secretary

Finance

Dave Zynn– Chair
Larry Halliwell
Phil Swisher

Trustees

John Cleary—President
Barbara McMaster
Ken Haselrig

SPRC

Cindy Rice –Co-Chair
Charlotte Episcopo
Marie Edinger

Nominations

Izetta Wilson
Penny Fischetti
Patsie Evans

Endowment Committee

Jaison Rinker

IF: GATHERING 2019 – Pittsburgh North - Local Christian Women's Conference at Advance Community Church/St Thomas in the Fields, 4106 St Thomas Dr, Gibsonia, PA, Friday, February 8th & Saturday, February 9th, 2019.

Many of us are hungry for a faith that is lived out in the practical, mundane things we do and the decisions that we make every day. What does it look like to follow God and live out this faith in our relationships, at our jobs, in conflict, in suffering, in our finances? This year we are going to try and answer these questions by looking at one of the most practical, yet misunderstood, books of the Bible - Proverbs. Proverbs doesn't show us a set of rules, but a different way to live that is so attractive, so fragrant, flowing through our lives, actions, relationships, and work, and drawing people to Christ. Together, we are going to discover what it looks like to do these things, not perfectly, but in good faith, trying our best to obey God. *and His way of life.*

On Friday evening, the simulcast will livestream from 6:30pm-10pm. We will gather again on Saturday from 9:30am-6pm. Lunch on Saturday will be provided – hosted here at BUMC in our Fellowship Hall.

Just bring your Bible and a pen and come along and soak up the wonderful messages and God-glorifying music. **You must register online, and please register soon as space is limited: <https://ifpittsburghnorth.iflocal.com/>** The cost of the weekend is \$30.00. Scholarships available. **Contact Cathy Dambach at hwdambach@consolidated.net, or 724-443-0324 with any questions.**

From the Prayer Corner – Prayers for the New Year

Lord, whether we leave behind a year of smiles and joy, or of trials and difficulties, or a mixture of both, we pause to give You thanks. Thank You for being with us every single day of every single year.

Please remind us of Your presence in the year ahead, especially when we feel pushed and rushed by busyness. Remind us in all things You will be there, stirring up our faith, renewing our hope, supplying our needs, reminding us of Your faithfulness, and blessing Your children.

We are so thankful that we serve a God who makes all things NEW and gives us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings. We love you, Lord.

During the coming year, when the day seems dark, and the road seems long, and the answers unclear, fill us with Your wisdom to do the next right thing. We ask for Your Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us in this New Year. Renew our spirits with gratitude and joy, giving us eyes to see the world as You see it. Not missing the good or the bad, but rather seeing each moment as an opportunity to recognize Your goodness and shine Your spirit of love. Thank You Father. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

(portions taken from a Heather King blog)

“Happy New Year from the Prayer Team!! May the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you, and may you be filled with His peace.”

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 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!

“Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together.” - Charles G. Finney

Wednesday Morning Prayer – 8:00am-8:30am

Prayer is a powerful way for us to receive the grace of God in our life. As we pray God moves. God moves in response to our requests. God moves closer to us in relationship. God moves on our hearts so that we more deeply experience his love. These are powerful things we don't want to miss as a church community. Come join your pastors every Wednesday in the sanctuary, as we set aside time to pray to our God. Make the effort to come before work! Come as a way to jumpstart your day!

January Birthday's and Anniversaries

01/02 Ray Wilson
 01/04 Nathan Humenik
 01/05 Debbie Lokay
 01/05 George Strain
 01/09 Lauren Dick
 01/10 Jayne Cain
 01/12 Risa Snowden
 01/12 Roman Jacobovic
 01/13 Andrew Rossi
 01/13 David Daugherty
 01/14 Mike Eddy
 01/14 August Whipple
 01/15 Miriam Perriello
 01/17 Michelle Fischetti
 01/17 David Evans
 01/19 Ian Holcomb
 01/22 Reid Rinker
 01/23 Sabrina Humenik
 01/24 Kim Szelc
 01/24 Grace DeVore
 01/26 Trevor Ditmore
 01/30 Katie Chapin
 01/30 Benjamin McLeister
 01/31 Kevin McGrath
 01/31 Anthony Amory

Bakerstown News...



Once again we are going to have the offering envelopes for 2019 available in the narthex. **Look for the envelopes to appear soon.** If you have any questions, you can always call me. Kay Cramer, Financial Secretary [724-443-2847](tel:724-443-2847).

Day School Chalkboard

The year 2018 was a wonderful year for the Day School. We added several new classes as well as sweet new families and teachers. We are looking forward to seeing all the God will do in this new year!

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a big hit! It was wonderful to team up with the United Methodist Women's Cookie Walk. Families were able to purchase cookies and books and visit with the most amazing Santa! Thanks, Mike Perriello! Thank you, also, to the United Methodist Men and The Methodist Women for donating money allowing each child to purchase a book up to \$5.00! This was such a blessing!



Box Tops for Education: The Day School is now collecting Box Tops for Education, you can find these on General Mills Cereals™, Pillsbury™, Old El Paso™ and Green Giant™, and many more products. America's schools have earned over \$868 million, and you can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the grocery store and online. Each box top saved is

worth 10 cents. There will be a box in the South entrance for you to put your box tops.

Campbells Soup has discontinued their labels program. There is no need to save your labels any longer.

Day School Open House!

Sunday, January 27 we open our doors to the church and public to visit our preschool, meet our teachers and see our beautiful learning spaces. Current preschool families will also be here to talk with you and share their perspective on our school. We have a special preview time for church members at 12:00 p.m. We will open our doors to the public at 12:45 until 2:30 p.m. Registration for the 2019/2020 school year will accepted. Please stop by; we'd love to see you! Please spread the word to families looking for classes for children aged 2 up through Kindergarten! More information about the preschool can be found on the website at www.bakerstownumc.org

01/12/1952 Jay & Helen Deer

01/14/1998 Brian & Kim Szelc

01/16/2010 Sam & Julie Cramer

01/31/1998 Don & Joyce Gindlesperger

Calendar of Events

Jan. 3 — Neighborhood Table, 2:30pm
Jan. 6 — F.A.I.T.H., 6:30pm
Jan. 9 — SPRC Meeting, 7:00pm
Jan. 10 — Women's Bible Study, 9:00am
Jan. 11 — Kingdom Kids, 6:00pm
Jan. 12 — Unhanging of the Greens
Jan. 14 — Soul Sisters, 6:30pm
Jan. 16 — Prime Timers, 11:30am
Jan. 16 — Church Council, 7:00pm
Jan. 16 — Griefshare, 7:00pm
Jan. 19 — Pancake Breakfast, 8:00am
Jan. 19 — A Stitch and A Prayer, 10:00am
Jan. 23 — Trustees Meeting, 7:00pm

❖ Sundays:

Worship – 8:30 & 11:00 am
Children's Sunday School, 9:45am
Adult Small Groups, 9:45am
F.A.I.T.H., 12:30PM (1st Sunday)
Ignite, 6:00pm

❖ Mondays:

Soul Sisters, 6:30pm (2nd Monday)
Grub and Stuff, 6:30pm

❖ Tuesdays:

Jeremiah Bible Study, 7:00pm
Rhythm of Grace Practice, 7:00pm

❖ Wednesdays:

Wednesday Morning Prayer, 8:00am
Jeremiah Bible Study, 9:00am
Body and Soul, 7:00pm
Grief Share, 7:00pm—Jan. 16th
Ignite, Disciple Bible Study, 7:30pm

❖ Thursdays:

Women's Bible Study, 9:00am
Sanctuary Choir, 7:30pm

❖ Saturdays:

Body and Soul, 8:30am

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Bakerstown United Methodist Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. This service is offered for a once a month donation for withdrawal on the first business day of the month.

Online Giving lets you go to www.bakerstownumc.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. As you contemplate the future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office or by contacting Kay Cramer, financial secretary at 724-443-2847.

Thanks, Kay Cramer, Financial Secretary

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from the Staff of
Bakerstown United Methodist Church

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. Luke Whipple
 Associate Pastor & Youth Director
lwhipple@bakerstownumc.org

Joyce Gindlesperger
 Director of Music
jgindlesperger@bakerstownumc.org

Rachel Whipple
 Children's Ministry
rwhipple@bakerstownumc.org

Lora Stafura
 Secretary
lstafura@bakerstownumc.org

Christmas Worship Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE—DECEMBER 24

Family Service—4:30pm This worship service is engaging for families of all ages. We will celebrate the birth of our Messiah by: singing familiar Christmas hymns, meeting the characters of the Nativity and hearing a short Christmas message. There are interactive activities for the children to participate in during the worship service so it is a great option for families with younger children.

Carols & Candlelight—7:00pm & 9:30pm Both services are a celebration of Christ's birth with joyful singing of carols and the beauty of candlelight. Enjoy the surrounding beauty and the warmth of God's love during this special time.



FINANCE REPORT

	Nov 2018.	YTD Nov 2018	YTD Nov 2017
Donations	\$35,509.00.	\$436,764.91.	\$506,550.57
Expenses	\$30,535.06.	\$469,532.47.	\$501,451.64

Thank you for the support you have shown your Church.

The maintenance fund and future endeavor fund are still not yet caught up from the summer. Connectional support (mission share) and the Trustees are current.

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