Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! You may have recently read or heard news reports indicating that the United Methodist Church has split or is in the process of splitting into two or more denominations. These headlines are reporting the release of a proposal called the "Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation," which is the result of a mediated agreement involving 16 people representing various groups in our denomination.

I wanted to take an opportunity to further explain what is happening. The only body that can speak on behalf of the United Methodist Church is the General Conference, which will be meeting in May. The "Protocol" is basically one proposal among several they will have consider. In other words, the separation is not a done deal. It is just a possibility.

You might be wondering why there is talk of a split in our denomination. We have wrestled with matters related to human sexuality for the several decades. Our denomination's official position is that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Clergy are forbidden to perform same gender ceremonies. LBGTQ persons are withheld the rites of ordination and clergy membership. There are many, who disagree with our church's position and have sought to change it. Others want to maintain the current stance. These differences of opinion have led to a church divided.

You may recall that a specially called meeting of the General Conference was held last year. It was hoped that a solution to the division could be found. They strengthened the church's traditional stance on human sexuality. Instead of solving the conflict, this decision worsened the divide. It helped many realize that a split between progressive United Methodists and traditional ones is inevitable. That is why there are plans for separating into two or more denominations being proposed for action at this year's General Conference.

There has been no official action taken regarding the future of our denomination. That will happen in May. In other words, there are presently no decisions for our church to make. What should we be doing?

First, we can pray for those, who will be representing us at General Conference including our own Pastor Alyce Weaver Dunn. Second, we can deepen our relationship with God in Jesus Christ, through prayer, worship and bible study. Third, we can reach out in love to one another, our community and the world around us in the name of Jesus. While we wait, we can continue being the church and doing what we do best at Bakerstown!

Blessings, Pastor Keith

Events, Outreach & Small Group Opportunities.....

Bible study for parents with young children | Tuesday, Feb. 4 & 18th |6:15-7:30 pm | Wesley

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

The Neighborhood Table | Feb. 6 | N.F. 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.

Grub-n-Stuff date changes for February

For the month of February, Grub-n-Stuff dates will be the 1st and 4th Monday of the month.

This means that G&S will be on **February 3rd and 24th**. In March, the regular schedule of the 2nd and 4th Monday's of the month will resume.

Bakerstown Book Club – Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12th, at 7:00pm at the home of Izetta Wilson. The book that has been chosen to discuss is Never Say Never by Lisa Wingate. If you love to read, join us on February 12th, 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!!

Kingdom Kids | Feb, 14th |6:00-8:30pm | F. Hall Valentine Pajama and Pancake Party

Who: any child 4 and potty trained through 5th grade

Join us for a special Kingdom Kids that will benefit the Youth Mission trip to Savannah Georgia this summer! Come wearing your favorite pair of pjs and enjoy some pancakes.

Children will be able to choose between: games, crafts, movie, nail painting, and other special activities-

Parents are asked to give love offering that will help the youth group in their mission trip. Any gift is appreciated but we ask that you would consider what you would pay a babysitter for the night and give more than your regular kingdom kids offering to bless the youth.

Please RSVP to Rachel, space will be limited so it will be a first come first serve basis.

rwhipple@bakerstownumc.org or 724-816-4379

All U Can Eat Pancake Breakfast | Saturday, Feb. 15th | 8 -11 am | Fellowship Hall Adults = \$6, kids age 6-12 = \$3.00 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!

Stitch and A Prayer | Saturday, Feb. 15th | 10 am- 2 pm | Old Fellowship Hall - 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. Bring a lunch!

Prime Timers | Wednesday, Feb. 19th at 11:30am | Fellowship Hall This fun group meets for food, fun and fellowship! Anyone interested in joining this group, bring a pot luck dish to share and a big appetite. We will be playing games and just having a great time. This group is open to anyone in the congregation or community.

GriefShare |Feb. 19th|7:00pm|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.

NEW weekly meetings begin March 4th through May 27th, Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm till 8:30pm in the Wesley Room.

Women at the Well Sunday Morning Small Group — We started a new discussion series in January, "Seeing Ourselves as God Sees Us", and we will finish it up in February. 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!

Events & Small Group Opportunities....

Safe Sanctuary— Saturday February 22, 10-12 in the Fellowship Hall

Creating a safe, loving environment is one of the foundations of what we do as God's people. Developing an atmosphere that protects our children is critical. We, as Christians, must be diligent about this task. The Western Pennsylvania Conference highly recommends that every church adopt and implement a Safe Sanctuary Policy and creates a Safe Sanctuary environment within the church facility and throughout its ministry.

all volunteers who work with children and youth in the church are mandated to attend this meeting with Pastor Chris Kindle from the Western PA UMC conference

If you plan to volunteer with the children or youth in the future this is a requirement you must meet-- you will not be able to volunteer next year if you have not completed this training.

*this is NOT for youth-- it is for anyone 18 and over. *please note:* anyone who is a parent, trustee, leader of the church may also want to attend so you are aware of the safety policies that our church is responsible for holding!

Please RSVP to Rachel at rwhipple@bakerstownumc.org if you plan on attending

Ignite Youth Announcements

Ignite Youth Information Our youth are getting ready for their Summer Mission trip to Savannah, GA with two upcoming fundraisers. These fundraisers will help pay for the cost of transportation (we need to rent a van, pay for gas, pay for tolls!) and it will help lessen the cost for our youth to go.

Please, consider supporting our youth by participating with one of the following fundraisers.

February – Valentine's Candy Box Fundraiser | Narthex

Our youth will be stuffing valentine boxes with chocolate for you to take in February. We will have three size boxes with three different size suggested donation amounts: small -\$10, medium -\$25, and large -\$50.

You can pick up your valentine box in the Narthex starting on the first Sunday in February. You can make your donation when you pick it up, or there will be an envelope and you can drop your donation in the offering during our worship services on another week.

March 15, 2020 – Chili Cook-Off | 5:30pm | Fellowship Hall

The Chili Cook-Off competition will return this year! It starts at 5:30pm on Sunday, March 15. Cost will be \$8 per person. Children under 8 are free. Along with chili, there

will be all-you-can eat hot dogs, cornbread, and ice-cream. We will conclude the night with a talent show. If you would like to support by donating – we will take donations of hot dogs, hot dog buns, sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese, and ice cream. Contact Pastor Luke if you would like to make a donation.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP 2020

This Summer pastor Luke is looking to take Middle and High School Students to Savannah, Georgia for a weeklong mission project with YouthWorks. There are spots for 8 students on a first-come, first serve basis. *If needed and available, we can add slots for additional students*. Dates: June 27-July 3

Cost: ~\$400 : depending on fundraising goals. Scholar-ships will be available.

We will begin the trip by traveling to Washington, DC to visit the brand new "Museum of the Bible," stay a night in DC, then travel down to Savanah on June 28.

While in Georgia, our group will have the opportunity to do hands-on work projects, partner with local ministries and non-profit organizations that serve seniors, children and those experiencing homelessness. In the evenings, we will get to have dinner each night, an evening to swim at Tybee Island, we will learn about historic injustices by touring a church involved with the underground railroad, take a stroll through the Riverwalk and other tourist destinations in Savannah, and end the week with a community cookout celebration.

Bakerstown Youth Group

Bakerstown Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 6:30-8:00pm. Open to all kids from 6th-12th grade. Weekly meetings, which include Bible study, worship, games, and fellowship and give all youth an opportunity to explore their faith while developing lasting friendships. If you want to be involved in our Youth Ministry Program, or have questions concerning a program, contact Luke Whipple at lwhipple@bakerstownumc.org or 724-443-3184 Follow us on Facebook or Instagram. We put new content nearly every week on our facebook and Instagram accounts. Find us on facebook @www.facebook.com/bakerstownyouth/ or on Instagram @ignite youth bume

Confirmation Class News!!

2020 Confirmation Class — Anyone that has a child in 8th grade or older that is interested in joining the church, please contact the church office at 724-443-3184 or Pastor Keith at kdunn@bakerstownumc.org by Sunday, February 16th.

Happenings....

Safety Committee Update

A BUMC Safety Committee was formed last fall for the purpose of ensuring that our church is a welcoming and safe place for everyone. The committee would like to bring you up to date on the progress we have made and some changes you are going to see in the near future.

- We are taking a "big picture" view in order to plan for various kinds of situations and emergencies.
- Team members have attended one or more workshops and trainings specifically designed for houses of worship.
- Beginning on Sunday, February 2, all entrances will be locked 10 minutes after the worship service begins. The North Entrance door will be monitored to allow for late arrivals. Thanks goes to volunteers from Grub n Stuff for taking on this task!
- We are in the process of arranging ALICE training for all church staff, preschool staff and team members. ALICE provides preparation and a plan for individuals and organizations on how to more proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder.
- A risk assessment of our facility was completed in December by a Homeland Security representative. His report should become available to us in the near future. Recommendations will be taken into consideration for changes in our procedures and/or facilities.
- From time to time, you will see safety tips or reminders in the bulletin and on the rolling announcements. We all can contribute to making our church a safe and welcoming place. **If you see something** that concerns you, **say something**.
- Team members are Keith Dunn, Luke Whipple, Ray Wilson, Don Gindlesperger, Chuck Koval, Todd Mankamyer, Sam Cramer, Carol Skolnik, Parvez Khambatta, and Tim Shipley.

Ministry Opportunities

Staying active, making new friends and serving others are all new year's resolutions that can be easily achieved by participating in one of the many ministries here at the church.

- * The hospitality committee is always looking for people to bake for Sunday morning refreshments no Martha Stewart experience necessary.
- * If you like to talk and brighten someone's day, consider visiting our shut-ins. Visitation calls are a wonderful way to keep our church family connected no pastor experience required.
- * If you enjoy sharing a dinner with new people, give the Sharpsburg/Roots of Faith outreach a try no strained relative conversations here.

These are just a few suggestions to start 2020 with renewed purpose and possibilities. Any questions? Our pastors or a quick call to the church office for all the details will get you started.

From the Prayer Corner – Prayers for February

Valentine's Day - which is all about love and longing and relationship - is celebrated this month. When we fall in love, we long for and want to spend time with the object of our affection and we willingly give our attention to the relationship. Falling in love with Jesus should be no different, but believers often hurry through Bible reading and prayer. The result is a superficial faith kept alive by habit rather than worship. To attain lasting intimacy, we must approach God with a sense of purpose and determination. Purpose—"Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God," King David advised the leaders of Israel.(1 Chronicles 22:19)

If we desire intimacy with Him, it is necessary for us to approach the spiritual disciplines purposefully. Before opening your Bible, ask the Lord what He wants to say to you. Pray to understand His ways - He loves answering that plea. Pray the Scripture verses back to Him – He loves when you use His words to talk to Him. Even when we do not feel like putting time into our relationship with Christ, we must determine to do so. Determination—"Indeed, my spirit within me seeks you diligently," Isaiah told God.(Isaiah 26:9) Those who diligently seek the Savior experience His presence in their worship and in their prayers.

Getting to know Jesus brings pure joy into a believer's life. However, we must be willing to offer Him prime time, not our leftover minutes. God gives us His best – His only Son, Jesus; we should put forth no less in return. Like any loving relationship, our intimacy with Jesus requires that we give Him our time. These quiet moments are meant for prayer, worship or meditation on His Word instead of working through a request list. "Too often we Christians stretch out our hands, but not our hearts—we would rather know Him as the One who answers prayer instead of loving Him for Himself. To achieve a true friendship, we must talk with Christ as our Friend and listen for Him to speak". - Charles Stanley

This February - with purpose and determination - devote some time to prayer - and reading God's Word - spending time with the One who really loves you!! And you just might fall in love too!!

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

Contact Lora Stafura <u>lstafura@bakerstownumc.org</u>, or Cathy Dambach <u>hwdambach@consolidated.net</u>, or Heather Brown <u>hlrdab@hotmail.com</u> 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!

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!

365 Intentional Acts of Kindness
Our Goal: Make 2020 a year of Kindness!

Don't forget to share your reflections about kindness! Have you been touched by something kind someone has done for you? Have you done something for someone else that had an unexpected blessing as a result? Have you noticed a change in yourself as you have become more intentional about being kind? We want to hear your stories! Fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate. The cards will be placed on the kindness tree in the narthex as an encouragement for others.

Pay School Chalkboard

The Day School had a very fun time at the McTeacher's Night at the Gibsonia McDonald's. We raised \$275.00! Thank you, Denise Staub for this! The children really enjoyed seeing the Day School staff behind the counter working hard! Denise often has artwork from our classes hanging up. Stop by and see our beautiful masterpieces!

Please keep our children and their families in your prayers. We have current families as well as former families facing very difficult situations from illness to financial situations and everything in between. Join us in surrounding them in prayer as we seek guidance on how to help and be vessels for God.



We are looking forward to our Open House on January 26. Church members are welcome to stop by from 12:00 - 12:30 to see the school and meet the teachers. We are so blessed to be a ministry of Bakerstown United Methodist Church and we'd love to meet you! We will open our doors to the public from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. and start accepting registrations from the public for the 2020-2021 school year. Please spread the word! And above all else, please keep us in your prayers.

Two Year Old Class- Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. or Monday, Wednesday, Friday Afternoons from 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. This program is available to children who have reached the age of three before September 1st and are potty-trained. While the primary focus of the program will be on fostering the child's social and emotional development, our activities and games will include the mastery of basic, developmentally-appropriate cognitive skills. **Maximum 12 children**

Three Year Old Class -- Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. or Monday, Wednesday, Friday Afternoons from 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. This program is available to children who have reached the age of three before September 1st and are potty-trained. While the primary focus of the program will be on fostering the child's social and emotional development, our activities and games will include the mastery of basic, developmentally-appropriate cognitive skills.

Maximum 12 children

3 Day Pre- K Class --Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. This program is available to children who have reached the age of four before September 1st. There will be a much more defined emphasis on cognitive development, including developmentally-appropriate literacy and mathematical skills, with the ultimate goal of kindergarten readiness. Activities will continue to address the child's social and emotional development as well. **Maximum 12 children**

4 Day Pre-K Class -- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. This program is available to children who have reached the age of four before September 1st. The focus of this class is kindergarten readiness. Journal writing, reading and math readiness, Pre-K sight word recognition as well as social and emotional development will all be covered daily. **Maximum 12 children**

Full Day Kindergarten -- Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

A Christian based Kindergarten program that will offer students unique experiences every day that foster creativity, discovery, academic, social and emotional growth and a genuine love for learning. The warm, Christ- centered environment and closeness between day school families and staff will provide a quality, nurturing program that allows every child to be happy and successful. Children will participate in several service projects throughout the year impacting our local community and the world. **Maximum 12 children with 2 certified teachers**

Mark you calendars for: A Circle of Friends Choirs at
Bakerstown United Methodist Church
Friday, May 8th at 7:30pm

Calendar of Events

Feb. 3 — Grub & Stuff, 6:30pm

Feb. 4 — Parent's Bible Study, 6:15pm

Feb. 5 — Safety Committee Meeting, 7:00pm

Feb. 6 — The Neighborhood Table, 2:30pm

Feb. 12 — SPRC Meeting, 7:00pm (tentative)

Feb. 12 — Mission Team Meeting, 7:00pm (tentative)

Feb. 14 — Kingdom Kids, 6:00pm

Feb. 15 — Pancake Breakfast, 8:00am

Feb. 15 — A Stitch and A Prayer, 10:00am

Feb. 17 — Finance Team Meeting, 7:00pm

Feb. 18 — Parent's Bible Study, 6:15pm

Feb. 19 — PrimeTimers, 11:30am

Feb. 19 — Church Council Meeting, 7:00pm

Feb. 19 — Griefshare, 7:00pm

Feb. 22 — Safe Sanctuary, 10:00am

Feb. 24 — Grub & Stuff, 6:30pm

Feb. 24 — Trustees Meeting, 7:00pm

Feb. 24 — Care and Share Meeting, 7:00pm

Feb. 26 — Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:30pm

Notes of Appreciation....

Dear Bakerstown Family, I want to thank the congregation for the generous gift I received at Christmas. I was so humbled and blessed by your generosity. I also want to thank everyone for the gift cards, candy, goodies, books and everything else I received for Christmas as well. I am truly blessed to work here and be part of Bakerstown. Thank you all again. Lora Stafura

Thank you for shopping Amazon Smile! Your purchases last year added \$78.73 to the mission team account last year!

Offering envelope update!!!!!Offering envelopes were not mailed to those who did not pick them up. If you would like Kay Cramer to mail them to you, please either call her at 724-443-2847 or email at Kay.4.cramer@gmail.com.

Sundays:

Worship – 8:30 & 11:00 am Adult Small Groups, 9:45am Ignite, 6:30pm

Mondays:

Grub and Stuff, 6:30pm (2nd & 4th Monday)

Tuesdays:

Jeremiah Bible Study, 7:00pm

Wednesdays:

Wednesday Morning Prayer, 8:00am Jeremiah Bible Study, 9:00am Grief Share, 7:00pm (Feb. 19)

Thursdays:

Women's Bible Study, 9:00am Rhythm of Grace Practice, 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir, 7:00pm Join us on Wednesday, February 26th



We will have a simple soup and bread supper available in our Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm, followed by worship at 7:30pm

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-

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.

February Birthday's and Anniversaries

Rev. Keith Dunn Senior Pastor kdunn@bakerstownumc.org

Staff:

Rev. Luke Whipple Associate Pastor & Youth Director https://www.corg

Joyce Gindlesperger Director of Music <u>jgindlesperger@bakerstownumc.org</u>

Rachel Whipple Children's Ministry rwhipple@bakerstownumc.org

Lora Stafura Office Administrator lstafura@bakerstownumc.org



Box Tops for Education

Clipping box tops is an easy way for you to help our school buy what it needs. Box tops are worth \$0.10 each, and

they quickly add up to real cash for our school. Simply collect them in a baggie and place them in the collection boxes at the North and South entrances of the church. Contact Kim Szelc with any questions, 412-980-4723.

02/01 Frank Ferguson
02/04 Jack Brown
02/06 Becky Olson
02/07 Thomas Pouchot
02/07 Shirley Shipley
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



December 2019 YTD December 2019 YTD December 2018
Donations: \$60,996.04 \$477,959.85 \$522,223.95
Expenses: \$38,904.05 \$373,441.05 \$410,612.37

Thank you for your continued support of our church! Because of your faithful donations we have paid all of the bills, including the connectional support (100%) and Trustees support (100%). We moved money into savings for the Major Project Fund and the Future Endeavor Fund also. There was also a generous stock donation for year end as well as a bequest donation. The bequest was moved into the Endowment Fund, per action taken at Church Conference, as recommended by the Finance Committee and Church Council. You will hear about the usage of the stock donation in the upcoming months.

Please call if you have any questions. Kay Cramer, Financial Secretary 724-443-2847