



September 2019

The Steeple

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! In my last pastor's page, I wrote about how most of us enjoy summer's relaxed pace and hotter temperatures. Because so many of us take time away for vacation during these months, the church's ministries and programs take a break as well. I also took the opportunity to write about the exciting things that were happening this summer here at Bakerstown.

As we approach the beginning of the school year and the resumption of our regular programming, I wanted to update you on what God has done through us this summer. During the first half of June, we conducted the Deeply Rooted, Upward Reaching campaign to benefit the camping and retreat ministries of our conference. Our church council set a \$50,000.00 three-year goal towards the conference's \$5,000,000.00 target. In my last pastor's page, I reported to you that we were just under 90% of our mark with some intent cards outstanding.

It is with great joy I inform you that we have exceeded our goal! As I am writing this, we have received intents totally \$54,077.00! I want to thank everyone who has supported this effort to expand the reach of our conference's camping and retreat ministries. These gifts will provide scholarships for campers, who might otherwise not be participate in these programs and to help maintain facilities. Thank you for helping to provide ministry to future generations.

In July our mission team of 5 youth, 2 young adults and 7 other adults journeyed to Costa Rica. They had an amazing time of ministry. Members of the team told us about their experiences during worship on Sunday, July 21st. If you were not able to be there, you can see the video they shared during worship on our church's Facebook page.

The highlight of our summer programming was our "Power Up" Vacation Bible School. We had 120 children attend VSB this year. Thanks to our 60 volunteers who provided ministry! We tried something new this year with Wednesday evening's Family Fun Night. Children and families from our Vacation Bible School were invited to attend a night of free food and games. We were surprised with how well it was attended. This was a great success thanks to all who worked to make it happen!

Our community outreach continued with our participation in the Lighthouse Foundation's Backpacks of Blessings. Our church family provided roughly 50 backpacks for area children, which were blessed at a community service sponsored by the Richland Area Ministerium in early August.

If this is what God can do during our "slower season", I cannot wait to see how God will use our church and its programs throughout the rest of the year!

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

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

Events and Outreach.....

Join the Sanctuary Choir! Just a friendly reminder that Choir practice will be on Thursdays at 7:30 pm, starting **August 29th**. Choir rehearsals are well-planned and we're always practicing at least 4 weeks in advance. Joyce understands that people can't always be there every week so we always rehearse way ahead for maximum preparation even when people have to miss. So, no excuses like, "I can't be there every week." The other "I can't read music" thing...nope, not that one either! We go over all the parts and if you don't read, we'll make sure we put you between two solid singers who *do*. Bottom line is, **WE WANT YOU TO BE IN MINISTRY WITH US!** Music is the most beautiful way to glorify God...taking a gift He gave us at the time of creation and turning it back to bring glory, honor, thanks and praise to Him.

Our GriefShare Outreach Ministry begins NEW Weekly Sessions Wednesday, September 4th, at 7:00pm

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. GriefShare is a highly recommended nationally known program of bereavement support groups that meet weekly and are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. Our GriefShare program is led by Rev. Bill and Cathy 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.

The Neighborhood Table | Sept. 5th | 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.

All U Can Eat Pancake Breakfast | Saturday, Sept. 21 | 8 -11 am | New 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, Sept. 21 | 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!

ALL CHURCH WOMEN'S POT LUCK PICNIC

When: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:30pm **Where:** New Fellowship Hall

Why: #1 - To simply gather socially for some fun and GOOD FOOD!!
#2 - To share what's happening in Women's Ministry at BUMC
#3 - To hear from one of our favorite ladies - Patti Kenzie

Who: ALL the Wonderful Women of Bakerstown United Methodist Church!!

What to Bring: A Favorite Salad, Vegetable Casserole, Fruit Plate or Dessert to serve 6 to 8 people.
Meat, Rolls, and Beverages will be provided.

Free Passes: We are giving "Free Passes" to women with limited time or limited energy available to prepare food items -

- *Women with 2 or more children under 6 yrs old,
- *Women who are 24/7 caregivers,
- *Women 80 yrs and older,
- *Women who work full time.

And if you don't have time to make anything, PLEASE just come along anyways!!

Sign Up: Please sign up in the Narthex or call/email the Church Office so that we know how many tables and place settings to set up. **COME AND JOIN US!!!!!!**



Picnic

Events & Small Group Opportunities...

Men's Picnic | Saturday, September 14th | 12:00pm | Mankamyer House

- It might be September, but there is still time for a picnic!
- The UMM are inviting all men and boys of BUMC to a picnic on Saturday, Sept. 14th at the home of Todd Mankamyer.
- Starting time is around Noon. There will be a large screen TV set up so we can watch the Pitt vs Penn State football game while we enjoy a picnic meal.
- The UMM will provide the meat and drink. Bring a side dish to share if you are able.
- Todd's address is: 46 Henry Road, Tarentum PA 15084
- It is kind of out in the middle of nowhere, so email the UMM at "bakerstownumm@gmail.com" if you need good directions or want to meet at the church and follow somebody.

F.A.I.T.H. Foster and Adoption, Inspiration, Training, and Hope | Sept. 1st | 12:30pm | New Fellowship Hall

We will share a meal together. 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.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study returns Thursday, September 5th at 9:00am.

We will begin the 6 week study "Romans: Good News That Changes Everything" by Melissa Spoelstra. Workbooks are \$12.00. Please sign up at the Information Desk in the Narthex.

We live in a world full of bad news. The media recounts stories of natural disasters, violence, and conflict. In the midst of all this heartbreak, we can't lose sight of the fact that God has given us good news. We call it the Gospel. It reminds us that God loves us and longs to redeem our suffering. The gospel truths shared with the early church at Rome echo into our day, reminding us that we still have good news to embrace personally and to share with others. In this six-week study of the Book of Romans, we will be highlighting significant concepts regarding the good news about faith, grace, daily life, God's plan, relationships, and eternity.

Whatever bad news we may receive, in *Romans* we will find good news to encourage and transform us. All too often, God's Word can seem intimidating and hard to understand even, especially with books like Romans. In this study Melissa helps us take in the truths of Romans in a way that makes a difference in our lives today.

Come join with us as we approach this powerful book packed with Good News!

Women at the Well Sunday Morning Small Group – Beginning Sunday, September 8th, we will be starting a New Discussion Series: "Growing Older and Wiser".

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!

DIGging Deeper | September 8th | 10:00am | Wesley Room

We are starting a study on **The Will of God** That phrase is used often, sometimes in conflicting ways, to explain events we don't understand. During World War II Leslie Weatherhead was the pastor of City Temple in London. After the church was destroyed by the constant bombing by the Germans, Weatherhead preached a series of 5 sermons to help his parishioners understand how the will of God related to the bombings. The sermons were so helpful Weatherhead, at the request of others, published the sermons. His writing is easily understood even though this can be a heavy theological concept. The book has been required reading in seminaries. Weatherhead explains 3 different types of God's will using the life of Jesus as an example.

Bakerstown Beginning — Sunday, September 8th and 15th at 10:00am in Pastor Keith's office.

Are you new to the church or a regular visitor that has considered joining? You can join the church with a membership transfer or a profession of faith. Anyone interested in joining the church, new to the church or just want to find out more about our church are welcome to this class, led by Pastor Keith. New members are being welcomed into the church on **Sunday, September 15th** at both services. Please contact Pastor Keith at kdunn@bakerstownumc.org or 724-443-3184 if you would like to join the church or have any questions.

Soul Sisters| Bible Study Group | Sept. 9th | 6:30 – 8:00PM |Library 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. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 724-443-3184.

The Bakerstown United Methodist Men --Grub & Stuff | Sept. 9th & 23rd| 6:30-8:00pm | New Fellowship Hall All Men (and boys) of BUMC are welcome to attend the Grub-n-Stuff dinner and Bible Study events that return to action on Monday, September 9th.

No homework or studying needed. Just bring your appetite, a dish to share (if able), and plan to join in whatever we choose to discuss that night.

Dinner starts at 6:30 and we will have you out the door at 8:00 pm.

Small Group Opportunities Cont.

Prime Timers | Wednesday, Sept. 18th at 11:00am | New 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.

Friday Morning Discipleship Group -A new Friday bible study/discipleship group is forming. Pastor Luke would like to lead a group if there is interest. The goal would be to meet every other Friday morning (every 2 weeks). Location and time would be determined by those who are interested. Luke is willing to make it early enough for those needing to make it to work. The group would start this October. If you are interested contact Pastor Luke | lwhipple@bakerstownumc.org | 724-622-7763 (call or text).



Hospitality Outreach Ministry: Are you interested in reaching new people with the love of Jesus but not sure how? Could you imagine that a dinner at your home, a meeting at restaurant, or conversation over coffee could be that place? This Fall, Pastor Luke is completing a project for ordination on hospitality as a way for outreach. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact pastor Luke | lwhipple@bakerstownumc.org | 724-622-7763 (call or text).

Amazon Smile ...

Thanks to all of you who have made Bakerstown United Methodist Church your charity of choice...In August we received \$30.34 in donations from Amazon Smile. It's the first money received since Bakerstown UMC signed up earlier this year.

These donations are received on a quarterly basis...so keep up the good work.

Mission Project Supplies needed! Days for Girls, a local mission project that makes reusable feminine hygiene kits for girls and women in third world countries, is in need of **GALLON SIZE ZIPLOC PLASTIC FREEZER BAGS**. Durable bags are needed as part of the kits. They must be the Ziploc freezer brand. Contributions may be placed in the Days for Girls box located in the narthex. Once again, thank you for your generous support!

Day School Chalkboard

I am so excited and blessed to head into my seventh school year here at Bakerstown United Methodist Church Day School. I am surrounded by amazing, kind and supportive employees and members of the church. The school is blessed to have strong, loving and excellent educators pouring God's love into the children and families who enter our doors each day. I am humbled to be a part of such a wonderful ministry of this church and so thankful for the opportunity.

Seven years ago we had four different classes. One class of 2 year olds, two classes of 3 year olds and one class of 4 year olds. We currently have eleven different classes. Two classes for 2 year olds, four different classes for 3 year olds, four different pre-k classes for children ages 4 and 5 and a kindergarten. God is good! Please keep us in your prayers to meet the many different needs of the sweet children in our school and support their families.

We have a few openings in some of our classes, please spread the word! Kelly Campbell, director



	June/July 2019	YTD July 2019	YTD July 2018
Donations:	\$83,709.12	\$266,638.69	\$309,297.98
Expenses:	\$87,147.11	\$263,658.41	\$306,468.92

Once again, thank you for your support. All bills have been paid, including the connectional support. We have not funded the savings funds for the Maintenance or Future Endeavor fund this summer, but have given the Trustees their monthly money for their projects. As always, you can call me if you have a question. Kay Cramer, financial secretary 724-443-2847

From the Prayer Corner — Back to School!!

It's that time of year again, as our children head back to school, and we are out buying the basic essentials they will need – notebooks, pencils, backpacks and other school supplies for the new school year, new clothes, and new items for the dorm room. But let's not forget the most important basic essential for our kids – and their teachers - **Prayer**.

Here are two sample prayers you can use for our students and our teachers:



A Prayer for our Students: Dear Lord, Thank You for the gift of education in every form. As our children prepare to start a new school year, may confidence be their foundation, may grace be their guide, and may hope be their compass toward a bright future. We pray they would have eyes to see the needs of those around them and a heart to be kind and love well. May they face each day with positivity knowing that no matter what comes their way, they don't have to face it alone. Remind them that You are always there with them. Thank You. In Jesus Name, Amen

A Prayer for our Teachers: Dear Lord, Thank You for the amazing teachers who have given their lives to serve our children. As they prepare for the new school year, fill them with strength to lead, grace to guide, and hope to thrive in their classroom. Please fill them with Your understanding as they instruct their students. Help them to see the individual potential of every student they teach. And fill them with Your patience as they give of their time and energy, especially to those students who struggle most. Bless them beyond measure for their willingness to pour themselves into the next generation through education. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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 hldab@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!

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!

Notes of Appreciation....



A great big THANK YOU, to the memorial fund for the purchase of a new AED and cabinet for the New Fellowship Hall. We now have 2 AED's in the building. One in the New Fellowship Hall and one in the South Entrance.

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and food following my knee replacement surgery in July. My recovery has been speedy and I attribute that to the caring love, and especially the prayers, from my church family.
God bless each of you. Beth Joyce*

September Birthday's and Anniversaries

09/01 Doug Kyle	09/16 Wally Swarmer	09/02/2000 Keith & Jennifer Vulhop
09/01 Gail Strain	09/16 Amy Jewitt	
09/02 Kay Cramer	09/17 Helen Deer	09/06/2013 James & Katie Scalise
09/02 Barb Testa	09/21 Leaugeay Staub	
09/02 Liam McGrath	09/21 Beth Joyce	09/08/2002 Tom & Debbie Davison
09/04 Erin McGrath	09/22 Catie Edinger	
09/04 Logan Rommes	09/25 Frank Sutton	09/20/1986 Gregg & Sharon Platt
09/08 Jody Mankamyer	09/26 Anne Stevens	
09/11 Emma Ladesic	09/27 Ashley Mankamyer	
09/12 Michael Fischetti	09/28 Aaron Stevens	
09/13 Brad Naeser	09/30 Cynthia Young	
09/14 Willie Haselrig		
09/14 Jennifer Kyle		
09/15 Phillip Kenzie		



You shop. Amazon gives.

On your desktop computer or mobile phone browser,
sign into your Amazon account through
smile. Amazon.com

And search for

“Bakerstown United Methodist Church”

After you select Bakerstown United Methodist Church,
Amazon will donate a percentage of the price on your
eligible AmazonSmile purchase to our church.

Operation Christmas Child Ministry of Samaritan's Purse

We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes during our Nov.
Packing party for children ages 2-12.

September: clothing

T-shirts, hats with NO WORDS OR PICTURES, slippers, socks, shoes, sunglasses, scarves, gloves, jewelry

October

Crosses made of any material, pictures of Jesus, handwritten letter or note, photo of your family, anything you want to donate, even if it isn't listed here.

November: First week only

\$\$\$\$..... donations for transport of boxes.

It is put inside the shoebox.

Check payable to Samaritan Purse.

Cash enclosed inside an envelope

Directory and Phone Tree Updates Needed!

I will be printing a new phone directory in the next few weeks. If you have moved, have a new email address, or had a change in your phone number, **please** contact the church office at 724-443-3184 or email me at **lstafura@bakerstownumc.org** or fill out a friendship registry sheet.

I noticed the last few times I sent a phone tree that I have some telephone numbers that are no longer valid. If you want to continue to receive messages from the church about events, funerals and other happenings, please email me or call me with your new phone number. If you are not on the phone tree list and would like to be added, please let me know, and I will add you to the database.

If I am missing your birthday or anniversary and you would like it to appear in the monthly newsletter/bulletin, please contact the church office so I can update the church database.

Thank you! Lora Stafura

Calendar of Events

Aug. 29 — Sanctuary Choir, 7:30pm (**starts**)
Sept. 1 — F.A.I.T.H., 12:30pm
Sept. 4 — Grief Share, 7:00pm (**starts**)
Sept. 4 — Nomination Committee Meeting
Sept. 5 — Neighborhood Table, 2:30pm
Sept. 5 — Women's Bible Study, 9:00am (**starts**)
Sept. 8 — Bakerstown Beginning, 10:00am
Sept. 9 — Grub and Stuff, 6:30pm (**starts**)
Sept. 9 — Soul Sisters, 6:30pm
Sept. 10 — Jeremiah Bible Study, 7:00pm (**starts**)
Sept. 10 — Women's Pot Luck Picnic, 6:30pm
Sept. 11 — Mission Team Meeting, 7:00pm
Sept. 11 — SPRC, 7:00pm
Sept. 11 — Jeremiah Bible Study, 9:00am (**starts**)
Sept. 14 — Men's Picnic, 12:00pm
Sept. 15 — Bakerstown Beginning, 10:00am
Sept. 16 — Finance Team Meeting, 7:00pm
Sept. 16 — Care and Share Meeting, 7:00pm
Sept. 18 — Church Council, 7:00pm
Sept. 18 — Prime Timers, 11:30am
Sept. 21 — Pancake Breakfast, 8:00am
Sept. 21 — A Stitch and A Prayer, 10:00am
Sept. 23 — Grub and Stuff, 6:30pm
Sept. 25 — Trustees Meeting, 7:00pm

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.

❖ Sundays:

Worship – 8:30 & 11:00 am
Adult Small Groups, 9:45am
F.A.I.T.H., 12:30pm (**1st Sunday**)

❖ Mondays:

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

❖ Tuesdays:

Jeremiah Bible Study, 7:00pm

❖ Wednesdays:

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

❖ Thursdays:

Women's Bible Study, 9:00am
Rhythm of Grace Practice, 7:30pm
Sanctuary Choir, 7:30pm

❖ Saturdays:

Body and Soul, 8:30am

Did you know that after each service on Sunday you can purchase Giant Eagle gift cards at face value? These can then be used for groceries or to purchase any of the gift cards Giant Eagle sells. For instance The Home Depot...purchase gift cards from the church and then get the Home Depot from Giant Eagle to then go to Home Depot and get your home improvements.



The proceeds were originally used to fund the mortgage of the church. They now help with ongoing maintenance, which we all know can be costly the older our building gets.

Shop and Save Perks to Pray and Play

When Shop and Save did away with their gift card program for the church, this took its place. There are sheets on the information center in the narthex that need to be filled out and returned to the store service desk for this program. The church will benefit from everyone using the Perks card. We will get a check from Shop and Save a few times a year.



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. 10 boxes weighing about 17# have been sent out this year.

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.*

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IGNITH YOUTH- Join us on Sunday, September 8th

6:30-6:50 pm -Gathering Fellowship/photos, snacks

6:50-7:40 pm - NERF GAME

7:40-8:00 pm - watch video ...

Leaders share a story.... my memory of the 90's is....

Menu:

Pizza Bagel Bites

Dunkaroos Dip

Pushpops

Orange Crush Soda, water, Capri Sun Packs



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 Szele with any questions, 412-980-4723.