



The Steeple

October 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! I am asked on occasion how our church is doing. Most times it is asked by people who have a genuine interest and love for the Bakerstown United Methodist Church. It is a complicated question that depends on what a person really wants to know.

There are many things to consider in wanting to know the health of a church. The spiritual growth of a congregation is difficult to quantify. While we do know how many people are participating in our group studies and prayer chain, we do not know the number of others deeply involved in daily prayer and Bible reading. In terms of service, we can look at people involved in the church's ministries. If we are interested in the church's witness, we can see the addition of the "Drive Through Dinners" in the past year as a way we have increased our church's outreach, visibility, and witness in our community. The financial health of the church can be gauged in a lot of ways. The easiest is to answer the question, "Are we bringing in enough income to cover our obligations?" Thankfully, the answer to that question is yes!

For years one of the easiest ways of knowing how a congregation was doing was to look at the attendance numbers. While it is not the only way of looking at a church's health, it was often viewed as the most important. It was also one of the easiest. I can come to church, look around, and see for myself how many people are there. Personal observation could be a little misleading without looking at the average Sunday worship attendance for a quarter or a year.

Covid-19 has brought a change to church attendance. Since March of 2020, some have stayed away from our sanctuary for personal safety reasons. Others are not worshipping because of personal convictions regarding policy of how the pandemic has been addressed. There are people who have gotten out of the habit of coming to church, have lost interest, or have increased travel as restrictions have loosened. If you measure attendance only by the number of people in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, our church along with most others are not doing very well.

There is another dynamic in this metric that must be considered. It is the number of persons who are viewing our services online. This is a little more difficult to accurately define. Internet views do not always tell you the length that a person watches or the number of people watching in that single view. For instance, I know of some individuals as well as family units who worship online. We have a very nice number of people worshipping with us online, which means we must take that into consideration when we look at church attendance. While worshipping in person is important, online worship is also valuable.

There are lots of things to consider when we look at the health of a congregation. It is complicated but thanks be to God we have a vibrant church! Let us continue to grow in our faithfulness to Christ!

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

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

Happenings....



World Communion Sunday— Plans are being made to have communion on Sunday, October 3rd at both services. The sacrament will be offered safely considering Covid-19 guidelines.

Rachel Whipple
2204 14th Street
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

We pray God's richest blessings for Rachel, Luke, and their family. Well done good and faithful servant!

Jesus told his followers: *"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."* These words inspire those for whom the journey is made easier by generous United Methodists. In United Methodist Churches around the world, a special offering is collected on World Communion Sunday to fund scholarships for seminarians. One half of the proceeds is for World Communion Sunday Scholars administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. The remaining one half is for the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program, which are administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. "Our lives should be our offering," he asserts. Please give generously on World Communion Sunday. Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank you!

Children's Church | October 3| Upper Education Wing Katie Lowell has volunteered to run our Children's Church Program during the 11am Worship Service. Children's church will be for any child Kindergarten through old through 3rd grade. We cannot make this program work without your help. If you can help her 1 or 2 weeks, that would be great. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help for a week or 2, please contact Katie Lowell at klowell33@gmail.com

Thank You Rachel!

One of the unexpected blessings of the Covid-19 pandemic has been that we were able to extend Rachel Whipple's time of ministry with us. She was able to remotely provide resources and the weekly children's moments videos for worship since August 2020. As we make the move to offering in person children's ministry, Miss Rachel's ministry with us will come to an end on October 31st. She will assist Katie Lowell in planning for Children's Church during the transition and provide videos for the month. We encourage those who would like to send Rachel expressions of gratitude for her ministry among us to do so at:

DIGging Deeper s |9:45am| Wesley Room

John MacArthur wrote the following about Romans. "Paul's letter to the Romans is an inspired masterpiece of doctrine highlighting God's grace, truth, and redemption. Within its pages, the apostle shares his message of good news and eternal salvation with the church, advises believers on theological truths, gives practical applications for living the Christian life, and shows how God's righteousness comes by grace alone through faith in Christ. The book of Romans underscores that Christianity is far more than just a doctrine—it is an essential road map for daily living."

Dr. David Jeremiah writes this, "Romans reads like a first-century course in theology, culminating in the incredible truth that God has made a way—through the sacrifice of Christ—for all to find salvation."

Come join us as we undertake a 12 week study of the book of Romans, highly recommended by Pastor Alyce.

The Neighborhood Table | Oct. 7| 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 | Oct. 12 |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 cnikskol@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

The Deuteronomy Bible Study—Tuesday Evening 7:00-8:30 pm | Wednesday Morning 9:00 -10:30 am | Fellowship Hall

The Deuteronomy study will be led by John Brumberg and be a verse by verse look at this book of the Bible. Any questions call the church office at 724-443-3184. The same class is taught on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.

GriefShare Outreach Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm till 8:30pm | 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 Judy Moore. GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the church or community. All are welcome.

Drive-Thru Pancake Breakfast—Saturday, October 16th

Come to BUMC any time between 8:00 am and 10:00 and take home a great breakfast. Each breakfast will contain bacon, eggs, sausage, homefries and your choice of blueberry, buckwheat, chocolate chip or plain pancakes. All of this for only \$5.00. Pull in, give your order to a smiling man and park and wait for the meal(s) to be delivered to your car. It cannot be any easier!

A Stitch and a Prayer Saturday, October 16th |10am to 2pm| Old Fellowship Hall 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.

The next **Red Cross Community blood drive** is on the horizon! It's being held at Trinity Lutheran Church, here in Gibsonia, from 2:00 to 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 21. Now's the chance to sign up and get the appointment time you want! To register on line, go to <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>, and type Trinity Gibsonia in the search box. For information or help with registration, call Paul Poerschke, site coordinator, at 724-814-7708.



Mark your calendars for the annual Church Conference on Monday, November 8th at 7:00pm via Zoom. All members of the church are encouraged and invited to attend this meeting with District Superintendent Deborah Ackley-Killian, presiding. At this meeting everyone has a voice to vote. I will be sending a link to the entire congregation via email on Monday, November 4th

Ignite- Bakerstown Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00pm. 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. Bring a friend!

Mission Team News.....

BUMC MISSION TRIP TO BUTLER
THE CEMENT BLOCK JOB

1



WHEN THE DTD TEAM
LEARNED ABOUT A NEED OF
ONE OF OUR REGULAR DTD
CLIENTS, WE KNEW THAT WE
HAD THE ABILITY TO HELP.
THEIR BASEMENT ENTRANCE
WAS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE
TO COLLAPSING.

2

THE JOB INVOLVED REMOVING THE ROOF
AND THE CRUMBLING WALL. MANY OF THE
CEMENT BLOCKS WERE ABLE TO BE
CLEANED AND REUSED.



3



KEVIN WAS ABLE TO
ENLIST THE
SERVICES OF A
PROFESSIONAL
BLOCK LAYER
WILLING TO
DONATE HIS TIME.

4

THE WALLS WERE
STABILIZED WITH
REBAR AND CEMENT.



5

THE ROOF AND INTERIOR DOOR WERE REPLACED.



6

Mission Team News.....



KEVIN CUSTOM BUILT A CEDAR DOOR WITH A PRESSURE TREATED FRAME FOR THE EXTERIOR DOOR. ALL THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IS TO PAINT THE DOORS.

7

THIS FAMILY HAS SUFFERED THROUGH FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS AS WELL AS MULTIPLE HEALTH CRISES. LASTING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WERE MADE BETWEEN THE FAMILY AND THE TEAM MEMBERS BECAUSE OF THE WORK THAT WAS DONE. THE MISSION TEAM TRULY ACTED AS THE HANDS OF JESUS, THE CARPENTER, IN THEIR EYES.

8

PROJECTS LIKE THIS ARE NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU, THE CONGREGATION OF BAKERSTOWN UMC. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS, YOUR PRESENCE, AND YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. A SPECIAL THANKS TO KEVIN MCGRATH FOR HEADING UP THIS MISSION OPPORTUNITY AND TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE, OR DONATED FOOD AND WATER FOR THE WORK DAYS.

9

Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of October: canned vegetables or fruit

Notes of Appreciation....

We cannot thank you enough for all the donations that have been given to the Lighthouse so far this year. They are very much appreciated!

"We so appreciate all of you, your efforts and energy are so wonderful. Meeting Pastor Matt was nice along with the prayer and fresh veggies. They were an extra surprise!"

"Tonight's dinner is absolutely incredible- please give our compliments to the chef!!! I'd love to have that stuffing recipe if it's available! After a long, hard day we feel very blessed by the comfort of this meal!"

From the Prayer Corner – The Pumpkin Prayer

Dear God,

As I carve my pumpkin to decorate my home this October, I pray:

*As I cut the top of the pumpkin out, please open my mind so that I can learn more about You.

*As I scoop out the yucky seeds and clean out the goop inside, take out all my fussies and frownies and fill me with Your love.

*As I carve out the eyes, open my eyes to see all of the beautiful things You have made.

*As I cut a nose in the pumpkin, I'm sorry for turning up my nose to all You've given me.

Help me to be grateful, and to be a sweet fragrance for You.

*As I cut ears in the side, open my ears to hear Your Word. Help me find more time to spend reading the Bible.

*As I carve the mouth, open my mouth so that I can tell others about You. And, Lord, help me to always speak Your words of love and kindness to others.

*As I place a candle inside and light it, thank You for the reminder that You are the Light of the World. Lord, let me always be a light to others, too, for You have filled me with Your light.

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 hldrab@hotmail.com and the monthly prayer list will be emailed to you. Occasionally we also have weekly urgent requests that are sent out as well. Thank you!



DAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Our Day School has the following employment opportunity:

Bakerstown United Methodist Day School is seeking a director. All inquiries can be made to kdunn@bakerstownumc.org or Bakerstown UMC, Attention: Susan,

5760 William Flynn Highway, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/02 Al Kolbe
10/02 Rich Hines
10/03 Abriella Stewart
10/05 Janet Creeks
10/05 Hannah Scalise
10/11 Kathy Ometz
10/11 Marcia Shipley
10/13 Gayle Santillo
10/13 Josh Werkmeister
10/13 Andrew Detar
10/15 Mike Leasure
10/16 Luke Rinker
10/16 Julie DeVore
10/17 Maria Stewart
10/18 Matthew Scott
10/19 Eliza Khambatta
10/22 Mark Stafura
10/23 Janet Swift
10/24 Dave Sarver
10/26 Devney Amick
10/28 Kendall Allaman
10/29 Andrew Dick

10/01 Skip & Joy Lancaster
10/03 Paul & Marie Edinger
10/04 Tracey & Michele Rossi
10/06 Wes & Nancy Shipley
10/06 Jim & Denise Kelvington
10/10 Jerry & Jodi Miller
10/13 Bruce & Barbara Williams
10/16 Todd & Jody Mankamyer
10/23 Ray & Mary Ann Wilson
10/26 Bill & Kathy Ometz
10/29 Mark & Lora Stafura

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.

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
mScott@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

Children's and Youth Ministry

Our church has the following employment opportunities available:

Bakerstown United Methodist Church is seeking a Children's Ministry Director for 10 to 15 hours a week. All inquiries can be made to Bakerstownumchurch@gmail.com or Bakerstown UMC, Attention: Denise, 5760 William Flynn Highway, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Bakerstown United Methodist Church is seeking a Youth Ministry Director for 10 to 15 hours a week. All inquiries can be made to Bakerstownumchurch@gmail.com or Bakerstown UMC, Attention: Denise, 5760 William Flynn Highway, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

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.



	August 2021	YTD August 2021	YTD August 2020
Donations:	\$34,793.10	\$283,444.03	\$325,395.25
Expenses:	\$34,830.57	\$288,073.40	\$359,682.66

Hello friends! Thank you for your generous giving to your church. Because of your giving all of our bills have been paid.

FINANCE REPORT

Our finance team will be saying a few words about how blessed we are as a church with your support. We were able to transfer monies into our savings for Major Projects in August also. The trustees have done some projects around the church to ensure our safety. And out in the parking lot too!

If you have any questions, I am a phone call away...Kay Cramer, financial secretary...724-443-2847
 See you at church....It's so good to actually see you!!