

The Steeple

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! I am writing this on a cold, dreary day in February, which isn't exactly breaking news because I am sitting in the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh. It has been a couple of weeks since Punxsutawney Phil's prediction of an early Spring. While many make fun of the groundhog's prognostications, I feel they provide a distraction from the dreariness of winter.

Spring will get here in due time. One sign of its pending arrival is the fact that the days are getting longer. During the month of February, we gain more than two minutes of sunlight a day. In other words, there will be over an hour more daylight on the last day of the month than there was on the first. The same is true for the month of March when we have an average gain of over two and half minutes of light each day! As the days grow longer, we draw closer to the arrival of Spring and hopefully warmer weather.

While many of us take for granted the fact that the Lenten season occurs during the arrival of Spring, some of us might not know the connection between Lent and Spring. The word Lent comes from the old English word "lencten" or lengthen. It literally refers to the lengthening of the days that occurs at this time of year.

We will soon see the earth come to life as the growing season arrives, which seems appropriate since Lent is a time of spiritual growth. As Christians, we know that Lent is the church's season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter. The early church used it as a time to prepare candidates for baptism. Our church and many others today hold confirmation classes during the season of Lent. There are special services held to begin the season on Ash Wednesday and to conclude the season during Holy Week. These classes and services seek to provide us an opportunity to grow closer to the risen Lord.

Lent has long held special significance in my life. When I was sixteen years old, every sermon my pastor preached early in Lent seemed to be telling me to read my bible. I found a New Testament and started to read the Gospel of John. By the time I finished reading it, I believed what it said about Jesus. I knew that Jesus was who he said he was in those incredible "I am" statements such as "I am the way, the truth and the life." I trusted in him as my savior and Lord.

Every Lent since that, I have sought to grow closer to God. My prayer is that someone will be drawn into a personal relationship with Jesus through my preaching as I was when I heard my pastor's sermons all those year ago. Mostly, I pray that all of us will know God in a new way during this season of spiritual growth.

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!

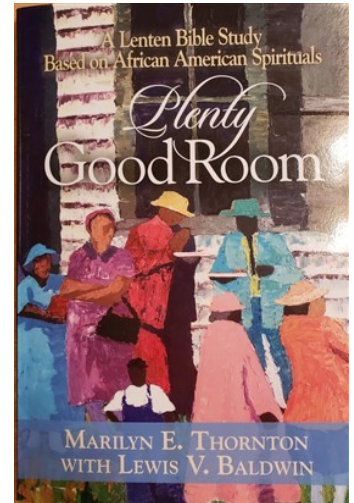
Something for Everyone.....

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and the Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn, director of connectional ministries, will lead a four-week Lenten study *Plenty Good Room*, based on African-American spirituals. Sessions will be held each Thursday, 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th in March from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bakerstown UMC.

The short-term Bible study combines an in-depth look at Scripture, American history, and the music and lyrics of six African American spirituals. It provides biblical, social, and historical analyses of the spirituals *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*, *This Lonesome Valley*, *Bow Down on Your Knees*, *Plenty Good Room*, *Ain't Dat Good News*, and *Were You There?*.

Marilyn E. Thornton, lead editor for Abingdon Press's Bible study series based on spirituals, wrote new lessons appropriate to the season for this study. She earned music degrees from Howard University and the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, as well as a master of divinity degree from Vanderbilt.

The study book is available in paperback or as an e-book from Abingdon Press or Amazon.



World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 1, 2019

Women and Men— Mark your calendar! This year our community World Day of Prayer Service will be at Bakerstown Presbyterian Church

Fellowship at 9:00m in the Colonial Room Service at 10:00am in the Sanctuary

Once again, World Day of Prayer gives us the opportunity to learn about a faraway, little-known country _ Slovenia, one of the smallest and newest countries in Europe. There is much to learn from the women who have written the 2019 WDP service. The theme for 20189 is based on Jesus' parable of the Great Dinner (in Luke 14:15-24): "Come—Everything is Ready."

F.A.I.T.H. Foster and Adoption, Inspiration, Training, and Hope Meeting the first SUNDAY of every month on **March 3rd 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.

Ash Wednesday, Worship, March 6th

We are about to begin the journey of Lent. A special season where we set aside time to examine our lives, re-center our walk with Jesus, and live with the Cross of Christ ever before us. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Lenten season. We are inviting you to join us on the first step of that Lent journey with an evening service on Ash Wednesday. **We will have a simple soup and bread supper available in our New Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm, followed by worship at 7:30pm.**

Please sign up at the information center in the narthex if you are interested in providing a soup for the Ash Wednesday supper.

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 **March 7th**. 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.

Ladies: Looking ahead to Lent – New Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study for Lent beginning Thursday March 7th at 9am. Elijah: Spiritual Stamina in Every Season by Melissa Spoelstra. In this six-week study grounded in 1 and 2 Kings, we will examine the life of the prophet Elijah, an ordinary man who did extraordinary things for God in the midst of the highs and lows of life. We'll learn some of the spiritual stamina secrets that helped him to hold on and persevere in faith, including practical habits related to making decisions, caring for the soul, accepting his circumstances, mentoring, and finishing well—which was his ultimate legacy. Whether we're currently in a mountaintop season where we're experiencing God's power and blessing, a valley season where we feel like running away, or somewhere in between, Elijah's life will inspire us to go the distance in the life of faith. Best of all, his story will challenge us because we'll discover that Elijah was just as human as we are. He doubted and struggled just as we do, but ultimately, he chose to believe God. Please come join us for the 6 weeks of Lent as we study together in God's Word. Sign up at the Information Desk. Study Guides are \$13.00.

Bakerstown Happenings....

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. **Thursday, March 7th and 21st 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 — Friday, March 8th

- 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.

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

DIGGing Deeper Lenten Study

Beginning March 10, DIGGing Deeper will be studying Pastor Matt Rawle's book "What Makes A Hero? The Death Defying Ministry of Jesus."

Rawle's book offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. Looking at pop culture heroes and others through the lens of faith, Rawle shows how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head. The book examines how good vs. evil, right vs. wrong, and overcoming adversity are fundamental to how Christians understand salvation. Heroes help us discern the good, fight for what's right, define identity, execute justice, spark revolution, and save lives.

Rawle enters the Gospel story to tell quite a different victory story—one obtained through humility, obedience to the cross, and an empty tomb. How does Jesus redefine what it means to be a hero?

Women at the Well Sunday Morning Small Group - New Lenten Study "Parables: The Greatest Stories Ever Told" beginning Sunday, March 10th. Women at the Well is a women's discussion group, meeting in the Library, 10:00am to 10:50 Sunday mornings. 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!

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 March 11th**

The Bakerstown United Methodist Men --Grub & Stuff UPDATE: Bakerstown men-- are changing their meeting schedule to twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Monday's. Bring your appetite and your questions, but most importantly enjoy some time with the Men of Bakerstown UMC! Please plan on joining us for a great dinner and thought provoking study of God's Word. We will be meeting again on **Monday, March 11 & 25** from 6:30-8:30pm in the New Fellowship Hall

Our GriefShare Outreach Ministry begins NEW Sessions Wednesday, March 13th, 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 coled by Rev. Bill Dambach, Marcia Shipley, Marge Kirkpatrick, and Janet Pagniello.

This group meets every Wednesday evening in the Wesley Room, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, and will begin a new series of weekly sessions starting on March 13th. GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the community. All are welcome.

All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast! Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, March 16th** (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!

Something for Everyone....

A Stitch and a Prayer Saturday, March 16th 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.

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 **March, 20th 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.



The Care and Share team will be offering American Heart CPR training on Saturday, **March 30, 2019 from 11:00 – 2:00pm. The deadline to register will be Sunday,**

March 24. The course will include CPR, Choking, and AED for adults, children and infants. If you need the CPR card the cost will be \$30. If you do not need a card, the cost will be \$15.

A family member, joining a paying family member and not requiring a card, will be free of charge.

(Registration forms will be in the church bulletin during February & March)

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.

BUMC Softball

Spring is just around the corner and that means it is time for softball! BUMC is a member of the Richland Area Church Softball League, and we need players to represent our team. This is a Co-ed league for ages 16 and up. All games are on weekday evenings starting at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in playing, please call Josh Banjak at 814-243-6647 or email him at joshbanjak@zoominternet.net



Time to Save Your "Junque"

The days are getting longer and the rob-ins will soon be returning. This can only mean one thing - the Junque Sale time is fast approaching!

This year's sale will be held on **Saturday, April 27th.** If your New Year's resolution was to get rid of the clutter, start putting it in boxes and save it for the Junque Sale. Your house will be cleaner, you will be happier and the Mission Team will appreciate it!

Junque Lover's Needed

This sale is the largest fund-raiser that supports BUMC Mission outreach, and many volunteers are needed. This year's sale is scheduled for **Saturday, April 27th.** We are looking for people that can be at the church during the daylight hours on Monday through Friday the week before the sale to help sort, price and display the donations as they arrive.



The evening hours are typically covered by mission team volunteers that can show up after their workday is done. If you feel like this could be a place for you to plug into Mission Work, please prayerfully consider volunteering to help out at the Junque Sale. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex soon!

Notes of Appreciation....

My family and I want to thank Pastor Keith, Pastor Luke, Lora Stafura, Joyce Gindlesperger and the wonderful members of Bakerstown Church for their prayers, cards, visits and loving concern for Ray as his health failed. We also want to thank those who sent meals to our home and the members of the Bakerstown Methodist Women who prepared and served the delicious luncheon the day of Ray's funeral.

A Word of Thanks, God moves in mysterious ways during a time of loss. Gratitude, thankfulness and endless appreciation to all of the countless people who have kept our family in their thoughts and prayers during David's illness and passing. Knowing we were not alone shouldering crisis and loss, gave us an armor of Christian strength and endurance that sustain us in our darkest hours. God spoke to use through your words of kindness and encouragement, hugs, and warm food to keep us going. Truly, these tender expressions of compassion fed our spirits and gave us courage to face another day. Thank you and blessings to all who follow His way. Patsie Evans and family.

From the Prayer Corner — A Prayer for Lent

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of this season. Thank You for knowing our hearts and our need for rhythms in our lives, and for drawing us into a deeper communion with You throughout the coming 40 days.

May we remember the gift of salvation in this season. May these weeks leading up to the tragedy of Good Friday and the glory of Resurrection Sunday remind us of who You are, how You love us, and who You have created us to be as Your followers.

May we walk through this season intentionally, removing distractions that take our gaze away from Your glory. May we quiet the noise that pulls us from adoration of You and puts our attention on lesser things. May we simplify where we have been stressed, may we surrender what has been burdensome, may we repent of what has been sinful, Lord Jesus.

May we see Your goodness and Your glory in new ways throughout this season of Lent. May we know the depths of Your love for us more fully. May we understand the pain You endured for our sake, Jesus, and may we rejoice that You conquered every bit of evil when You rose to life again.

Draw us closer to Your heart, that we might know You better and understand You more completely. We pray that we would not only give things up for Lent, but that we would give You glory through Lent, Lord. May we worship You through all that we say and do throughout the weeks to come.

May this season bring new hope and new healing. May we journey toward the cross prayerfully and purposefully, even through our pain, our doubt, our questions, and our searching. May we find resurrection life springing up from this old dusty ground, and may we be surprised by joy in all of it. May Easter be a day of complete celebration as we rejoice in our risen Savior and praise our gracious Father. In You, we find the truest joy, Jesus. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We praise You in all of it.

Hallelujah and amen!

(Rachel Dawson/Crosswalk Ministries)

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 h1rdab@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!

March Birthday's and Anniversaries

03/01 Raychel Shipley	03/14 Evelyn Lamberson	03/21 Verna Feather
03/01 Kathryn Swisher	03/14 Bryce Cramer	03/24 Paul Edinger
03/02 Katherine Wilson	03/14 Kathy Cleary	03/24 Tommy Waite
03/03 Becky Kyle	03/16 Wilson Haller	03/25 Alex Stafura
03/03 Kristyn Robinson	03/17 Alice Berkner	03/25 Ellen Kelley
03/03 Roman Mason	03/17 Becky Voight	03/26 Sally Borland
03/03 Chase Rinker	03/17 Dean Kelley	03/27 Harold Swift
03/04 Kurt Olson	03/17 Drew Bechtold	03/27 Joyce Koval
03/05 Dorothy Cramer	03/18 Robert Young	03/27 Jeanine Daluisio
03/06 Jim Werkmeister	03/18 Marie Edinger	03/28 Jamie Van Lenten
03/08 Penny Fischetti	03/18 Tyler Szelc	03/29 Ross Shipley
03/08 Eva Hines	03/18 Marlene Haller	03/30 Jessica Kenzie
03/09 Chuck Koval	03/19 Joy Lancaster	03/30 Emily Silak
03/10 Sarah Olson	03/19 Cassie Halliwell	03/31 Jim Semler
03/12 Benjamin Haselrig	03/19 Tahnee Hines	03/31 Shawn Negley
03/13 Debbie Morgan	03/20 Rachel Lapp	

Bill Montgomery & Angela Caron-Montgomery ~
March 15, 2003

Kurt & Leslie Olson ~ March 18, 1978
James & Maria Stewart ~ March 31, 2012

Day School Chalkboard

Thank you for helping to make our hoagie sale fundraiser a success! We would like to upgrade the ground cover on the playground. We are comparing a variety of options and hope to have it ready to go in early spring. We have had a few nice days in between the polar vortex and rainy days and we have taken advantage of the playground. We are looking forward to being out there everyday!

We look forward to attending a collaborative meeting at Pine-Richland School District in March. In an effort to create a seamless transition from our doors to Pine-Richland, Dr. Kristen Silbaugh, Pine Richland's Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education and Curriculum, has invited all the area early childhood centers to a meet and greet brainstorming session. We have always had a good relationship with Pine-Richland to make sure our curriculum is aligned with all they expect. We are excited about this opportunity to connect with other schools in our area and work with PR to equip our little ones to enter their doors.

Summer Camp!

Watch for registration to begin soon for our fun summer camp. Children ages 3 - Kindergarten are welcome to attend. We enjoy creating masterpieces together, playing games, reading stories, singing songs and lots of fun in the sun! Each week we have at least one water day where campers can enjoy a dip in our pool as well as a splash through the sprinkler.

Our annual Open House was very well received. We met many new faces and registered many new families. We do still have a few openings; please spread the word! We offer classes for children age 2 up through Kindergarten. I'd love to share all about our program with you! Please feel free to call, text (7244) 272-6032 or email: director@bakerstownumc.org anytime!



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.

Calendar of Events

Mar. 1 — World Day of Prayer, at Bakerstown Presby

Mar. 3 — F.A.I.T.H., 6:30pm

Mar. 6 — Ash Wednesday —

Soup Supper, 6:00pm

Worship, 7:30pm

Mar. 7 — Neighborhood Table, 2:30pm

Mar. 7 — Parent Bible Study, 6:15pm

Mar. 8 — Kingdom Kids, 6:00pm

Mar. 11 — Soul Sisters, 6:30pm

Mar. 11 — Grub N Stuff, 6:30pm

Mar. 13 — Griefshare, 7:00pm (starts)

Mar. 13 — SPRC Meeting, 7:00pm

Mar. 13 — Mission Team Meeting, 7:00pm

Mar. 16 — Pancake Breakfast, 8:00am

Mar. 16 — A Stitch and A Prayer, 10:00am

Mar. 18 — Finance Team Meeting, 7:00pm

Mar. 20 — Prime Timers, 11:30am

Mar. 20 — Church Council, 7:00pm

Mar. 21 — Parent Bible Study, 6:15pm

Mar. 25 — Grub N Stuff, 6:30pm

Mar. 27 — Trustees Meeting, 7:00pm

Mar. 30 — CPR Class, 11:00am

❖ **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 **(2nd & 4th Mon.)**

❖ **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

Ignite, Disciple Bible Study, 7:30pm

❖ **Thursdays:**

Women's Bible Study, 9:00am

Parent Bible Study, 6:15pm **(every other week)**

Sanctuary Choir, 7:30pm

❖ **Saturdays:**

Body and Soul, 8:30am



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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.

Bakerstown United Methodist Church
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*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

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Mon., Jul 22 — Fri., July 26, 2019, 9:00AM -- 12:00 PM

Come join us for a week of POWER UP! We will reveal the power God's children have through Him! *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* 2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)

Vacation Bible School is for children 4 years old through those entering 5th grade.

We will enjoy a week of great fun and learn more about Jesus!

Registration is FREE to all those who register by June 1st 2019. After that date this event page will be closed; there will be a charge of \$10.00 per child and a paper application will need to be filled out.

ONLINE REGISTRATION COMING SOON!!!!



SUNDAY, MARCH 10th



**FINANCE
REPORT**

Donations
Expenses

January 2019	January 2018
\$29,408.75	\$36,921.50
\$31,435.97	\$38,181.88

Thank you for your support. All bills have been paid, including the connectional support. The Maintenance Fund and Future Endeavor funds were not paid in January (but the Trustees were) Lets hope for not so much snow on Sunday mornings in February.

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