



The Steeple

October 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Since the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I have watched and read news stories about her life and career. I have been most fascinated by the ones that describe the friendship between Justice Ginsburg and Justice Antonin Scalia. In addition to serving on the Supreme Court together, the two were friends from their days serving at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The justices had a close relationship even though they often disagreed on matters of politics and law.

Judge Jeffrey Sutton shared a wonderful story about the friendship of Justices Scalia and Ginsburg. During one of his last visits with Scalia, the justice pointed at two dozen roses on his table and noted that he needed to take them down to Ruth for her birthday. “Wow,” Sutton replied, “I doubt that I have given my wife that many roses in thirty years of marriage.” Justice Scalia answered, “You should give it a try sometime.” Unwilling to give Antonin the last word, Judge Sutton asked, “So what good have these roses done for you? Name one five-four case of any significance, where you got Justice Ginsburg’s vote”. “Some things”, Scalia replied, “are more important than votes.”

Do we agree with the late Supreme Court Justice Scalia? Are some things more important than a vote or winning a case? Is a relationship greater than winning an argument? Is friendship more important than being right?

We live in a time when political discourse has become increasingly hateful. Rather than simply disagreeing with an opinion, personal attack is the weapon of choice. The intelligence of those with whom we think differently is often questioned. We have lost the ability to agree to disagree on some matters, while agreeing to value one another. As we get closer to Election Day, the divisive rhetoric and fear mongering will continue to worsen.

Unfortunately, these tactics are not reserved for the political realm. They have crept into the life of the church as we see division in churches and denominations. Christians question the integrity of other Christians on social media simply because they do not agree with one another.

Maybe, we could learn from Justice Scalia. Some things are more important than votes or politics or opinions or personal preferences. We should be able to value one another regardless of whether we agree on everything. After all, Jesus commanded us to do so when he said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Let us continue to value one another no matter what.

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

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

The Neighborhood Table | Oct. 1st| 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.

World Communion Sunday—Plans are being made to have communion on Sunday, October 4th at both services. The sacrament will be offered safely considering Covid-19 guidelines. Please bear with us, as we will be using a new method.

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!

Mark your calendars for the annual Church Conference on Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00pm via Zoom. All members of the church are encouraged and invited to attend this meeting with District Superintendent Dawn Hand, presiding. At this meeting everyone has a voice to vote. I will be sending a link to the entire congregation via email on Monday, October 12th.

Drive-Thru Pancake Breakfast - Saturday, October 17th

Current conditions are preventing the BUMC Men from hosting the usual Pancake Breakfast, so on October 17th, we will be hosting a "Drive-Thru Pancake Breakfast".

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, home-fries 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!

Although not required, in order to help us gauge how much food to prepare, you can send your name and number of breakfasts you think you will be ordering to "bakerstownumm@gmail.com".

If you do email your order in, it is not binding! You can change it to whatever you want! Since this is the first time we are attempting this, we are not advertising it to the community at large, but if you have friends from outside BUMC that are regular breakfast attenders, please feel free to let them know.

A Stitch and a Prayer Saturday, October 17th |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.

GriefShare Outreach Ministry 2020 Fall Schedule

NEW weekly meetings will continue through December 9th, Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm till 8:30pm in Fellowship Hall (**note new location!). Masks and safe distancing will be required.

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 coled by Rev. Bill 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.

Sunday Worship: If you aren't ready to attend in person worship, or if you are not feeling, we are live streaming our worship service on our You Tube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiZhOxTrZRdFDfNzXa99gyg> You can find also the Sunday Service posted on our website wwwbak-erstownumc.org on Monday morning.

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

The Acts 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. **We are asking everyone to please wear a mask and we will be social distancing.** The same class is taught on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.



Mission News:

Our first Drive Thru Dinner for the Lighthouse was a huge success! The mission team served 119 meals and I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, the folks who prepared and facilitated the pick-up of the meals, the volunteers who prayed with the recipients, or the folks who received the meals. I think I speak on behalf of all of the volunteers - it just felt *so* good to be back at

work serving our community in the name of Christ after so many months of quarantine. We have received several messages of appreciation for the meals and the prayers from those who passed through our parking lot. This effort could not have been made without the faithful and generous financial support of the congregation. Your gifts are providing not only food, but also hope and comfort to those experiencing difficult times. Thank you so much!

Our next **Drive Thru Dinner is planned for Tuesday, October 20.** If you are able to help in the kitchen or help with the pick-up, please email Carol Skolnik at cnikskol@gmail.com. If you are willing to bake a dessert, please contact Heather Brown at hdbdab@hotmail.com. Thanks once again for your faithfulness!

Operation Christmas Child: A project of Samaritan's Purse

During recent conversations with Samaritan's Purse headquartered in the Carolinas I was informed that this Children's Ministry will proceed this year as usual.

OCC helps children aged 2-12 who are suffering due to disease, war, famine or natural disasters where they live. Our donations show these children as well as their families, friends and neighbors the joy of the love of God.

Toys, school supplies, small tools, small toys, clothing, accessories, paper back books (that will fit in a shoe box), and personal care items make great gifts. As these are freely given and received many lives are changed.

So, as we are once again able to be out shopping, let's think of these children. Now that the church is now open, you can bring your gifts and place them in the designated OCC box in the Narthex.

Blessings, Verna Feather

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.

Prayer Corner....

From The Prayer Corner - Prayer Moves God!!

Consider this statement by Pastor Rick Warren: "When Pastors and Churches pray, God Moves!"

It is said that praying churches, those churches who experience the miraculous power and movement of God, are led by praying pastors and praying leadership. This is why Jesus spent time teaching his disciples to pray. He knew that His church would need to connect with Him, and the way we connect with God and receive His leadership, His direction and His power is through prayer. We have been deeply blessed over the years here at BUMC to have prayerful pastors, who consistently teach, and preach, and encourage all of us to grow in prayer and give us many opportunities to do so.

Jesus gave His disciples at least 4 reasons to keep on growing in the area of prayer. #1 – Prayer is an act of dedication. It's an opportunity to express our devotion and gratefulness to God, as well as our dependence on God; a way to stay connected to the Vine. #2 – Prayer is an act of communication. The reason you can ask anything of God in prayer is because you have a relationship with God and the privilege of communicating with Him at any time. #3 – Prayer is an act of supplication. The Bible teaches that there are some things that God has promised to do only if we pray. Charles Spurgeon once said, *"God never shuts His storehouse until you shut your mouth."* Prayer is God's chosen method of meeting your needs, but you need to ask. And #4 – Prayer is an act of cooperation. God has sovereignly chosen that we can cooperate in His plan for us by praying His will to be done here on earth. Prayer is God's program.

And there is no better time than now to pray for our church, our pastors, and our leadership; for the Church around the world, for our Communities, and for our Country and ask God to move, to guide us, to help us, to bring healing and wisdom and peace.

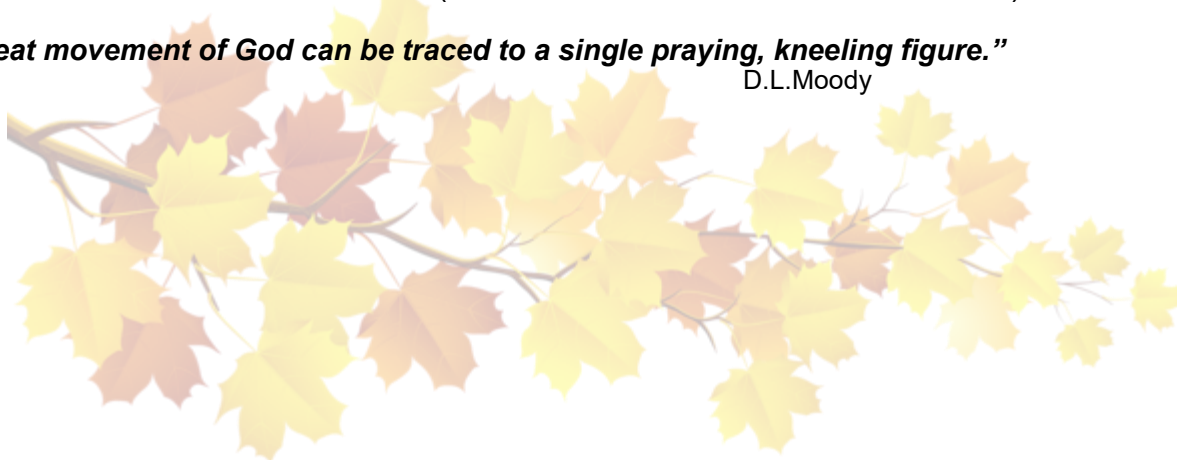
Joni Eareckson Tada says *"Amazing, isn't it, that our prayers, whether grand and glorious or feeble and faint, can move the very heart of God who created the universe? To walk with God we must make it a practice to talk with God. It's been said that faith may move mountains, but prayer moves God."*

A praying church is a caring and committed church. When you pray, it makes you sensitive to God and to other people. A praying church is an enthusiastic church. A praying church is a church that sees God move in lives and situations. God will move according to prayer. Let's continue to be a growing and praying church, and be expectant of God moving at BUMC.

(Portions taken from Pastor.com website)

"Every great movement of God can be traced to a single praying, kneeling figure."

D.L.Moody



October Birthday's & 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
 10/15 Sallie Risch
 10/15 Mike Leasure
 10/16 Luke Rinker
 10/17 Maria Stewart
 10/18 Jim Lynn
 10/22 Ross Chalfant
 10/22 Mark Stafura
 10/23 Janet Swift
 10/24 Dave Sarver
 10/26 Devney Amick
 10/27 Kevin Staub
 10/27 Patricia Young
 10/28 Kendall Allaman
 10/29 Andrew Dick



10/01/2005 Skip & Joy Lancaster
 10/03/1992 Paul & Marie Edinger
 10/04/1986 Tracey & Michele Rossi
 10/06/1990 Wes & Nancy Shipley
 10/06 /2012 Jim & Denise Kelvington
 10/10/1981 Jerry & Jodi Miller
 10/16 /1999/ Todd & Jody Mankamyer
 10/23/1976 Ray & Mary Ann Wilson
 10/26/1957 Bill & Kathy Ometz
 10/29/1983 Mark & Lora Stafura

Day School Chalkboard

The Day School is in full swing and doing well. We have less classes and smaller class sizes which makes everything during a pandemic much easier. The classrooms have been totally re-vamped to allow each child to be spaced 6 feet apart. We all wear masks, continuously clean and spend a lot of time outside. To date, we have no reported cases of the Coronavirus. Thank you for your prayers! Keep them coming as they are working!

Thanks to Heather Brown, we had our very first Fall mum fundraiser which was a success. Our budget is very tight so this was very helpful to our little school. Thank you, Heather for organizing this and thank you all so very much for your support!

Note of Appreciation....

We would Like to thank Our church family for all your thoughts and prayers During Dad's last couple years at home , your visits, meals. We appreciate all the hard work that went into (Dad) service and all of you that came and watched online. A special thank you to Pastor Keith and Lora . Love Becky Doug and Kyle family and Fran.

Fran Sutton has a new address!

4910 Oakhurst Ave.
 Gibsonia, Pa. 15044
 Phone. 724-443-1352
 Cell. 724-822-1756



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
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Office Administrator
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If you would like to purchase Giant Eagle grocery cards, we will have them available by **PRE-SALE ONLY!**

You must call or email the church office with the amount you need and I will place them in a bag with your name on them and you can pick them up on Sunday morning and pay then.

I will also sell them during the week, when I am in the office. I can set up contactless pick up if you like.

August Financial Report

| | August 2020 | YTD August 2020 | YTD August 2019 |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Donations: | \$34,050.00 | \$325,395.33 | \$301,669.68 |
| Expenses: | \$45,171.38 | \$323,853.28 | \$280,868.53 |



FINANCE REPORT

Hello Church Family....It has been good to see some of you at church! I can still recognize you under your masks :) For those that have not ventured out I will be ready to greet you some day. No name tags will be required.

Our church thanks all of you for your support during this odd time. You have supported us with donations online, thru the mail either to the church or to my house, or thru your bank. And now by putting your offering in the plates at the back of the church, if you are venturing out. We have paid all of our bills, including the taxes that were due the end of August and support for the Day School here at the church.

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

The Missions team received \$39.10 from Amazon Smile....so keep shopping!

Ignite's Hot Topics

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

We have been facing a couple challenges with our youth group here. The most glaring one is the transfer of our former youth pastor, Luke Whipple. Be assured that the adult leaders have maintained their involvement in Ignite, and have been very busy in Luke's absence to keep the youth group strong and vibrant. Although we do not have a youth minister, presently, all of our leaders will continue to hold sessions on Sunday evenings from 6pm-8pm **beginning September 13**. Keith Vulhop has agreed to serve as the interim youth leader for our congregation, and will therefore be the principal contact for our youth. He may be contacted via cell-phone: 724-712-6118.

Also please note that IGNITE has a new email contact: Bakerstownumcyouth@gmail.com Keith can be reached either way.

We understand that Covid 19 is a challenge for everyone in our congregation, and is of a serious concern for children of all ages. We at Ignite will be following several safety protocols during all youth activities. Masks and social distancing will be required for all of our youth, parents and leaders. Sessions will be held outside, unless inclement weather forces us inside. If held indoors, we will have our sessions in the New Fellowship hall, where we can control entry and exit into the building better and have an easier time sanitizing afterwards.

We will be monitoring attendance for all youth who are present. Unfortunately, I would like to ask that friend guests be held to a minimum in order to more easily track those in attendance. We would also like to ask that each child bring their own bibles. Electronic versions are perfectly acceptable. We also ask that everyone please be flexible during these times. We may have to make last minute changes or even cancellations due to the pandemic. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Keith.

Ignite is available to all youth in grades 6-12 and will meet Sunday nights 6pm-8pm.

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.