



The Steeple

May 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

Bakerstown UMC,

Over the past month, I have been discerning my next steps in ministry. My discerning led to a few phone calls, which leads to this announcement that effective July 1st, I will begin serving in South Carolina at Latta UMC and Mt. Andrew UMC. This two-point charge is in a rural and small-town setting.

Alyssa and I have always had a connection to South Carolina since our first trip there as a couple. We have vacationed there a few times, and even got engaged there in 2014. We both knew we wanted to live there if the right opportunities arose. What seemed like dreams as high school sweethearts is now turning into a reality for us.

Alyssa has family in the Charleston area. Her dad also dreamed about moving to South Carolina, so Alyssa almost views this as fulfilling her dad's dream through her.

We both have strong support from our families who reacted with much joy and excitement over this new possibility.

We appreciate your prayers as we faithfully follow where God is leading us in our ministry. Over the past month, the sermons have been based on being faithful in following where God leads, whether known or unknown. Even when we do not have it all figured out, we must remain faithful to the call that God places on each and every one of our hearts.

God's blessings upon you all,
Pastor Matt and Alyssa Scott

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Like most of you, I was surprised by Pastor Matt's announcement that he will be leaving us at the end of June. The move to South Carolina sounds like a wonderful opportunity for Matt and Alyssa! We pray God's blessings on them in their next ministry setting.

I have been asked several times after this was announced on Palm Sunday what is next for us in terms of an associate pastor. The short answer to that question is I do not know. This period of transition will be one of prayerfully discerning where God wants us to go from here. The Staff Parish Relations Committee will soon meet to discuss what the staffing needs of our congregation are. This process will involve input from other committees and from members of our church.

I ask that you join me in praying for God to direct us as we move forward.

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP! ON SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM AND 11:00AM
ADULT SMALL GROUP AT 9:45AM
CHILDREN'S CHURCH AT 11:00AM**

Happenings....



Gardening News! Jody and Ashley Mankamyer will be taking over coordinating the gardens around the church. They are looking for help mulching on **May 2nd at 6:00pm**. The boy scouts are

planning to be there but we would love for other members of the church to come and help as well. If anyone has any questions please contact Ashley Mankamyer at ashley.mankamyer@gmail.com or at my phone number which is (724) 841-1312.

Memorial/Cemetery Fund Meeting, Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00pm I will send a zoom link on Monday, May 2nd.

The Neighborhood Table | May 5 | 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 | May 10 | Fellowship Hall

The Mission Team is has been serving a monthly meal for The Lighthouse Our vision is to be able to serve our neighbors in New Fellowship Hall in the future. 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 cnik-skol@gmail.com.

Bakerstown Book Club | Wednesday, May 11th | 7:00pm | Library. Two books have been chosen to read: The Discussion Book is The Flicker of Light by Katie Powner. Our Read for Fun book is Hope Between the Pages by Pepper Basham. If you love to read, join us on May 11th, whether you've read the books or not. Please just come along and join us for fun and fellowship. All "Book Lovers" are welcome!! There's always chocolate!!

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study – Summer Sessions

"Third Thursdays @ 10am" in Fellowship Hall

Here are the dates and the guest teachers:

May 19th – Katie Lowell

June 16th – Dawn Conroy

July 21st – Marcia Shipley

August 18th – Pastor Alyce Weaver Dunn

All women of the church - please feel free to drop in!

All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast! | Saturday, May 21st | 8:00-11:00am | Fellowship Hall

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. With food costs going up, the new price will be \$7.00 for Adults, \$3.00 for ages 6-12 and under age 6 eat for free. Come and get your choice of Plain, Blueberry, Buckwheat or Chocolate Chip Pancakes and the options of eggs, bacon, sausage and/or home-fries to go with them. Wash it all down with coffee, tea or OJ and then go out and change the world!

A Stitch and a Prayer | Saturday, May 21st | 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.



Recognition of Graduations, Sunday, May 22nd

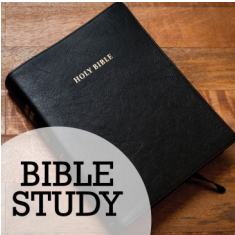
please inform the church office of your accomplishments! Call Lora at 724-443-3184 or lstafula@bakerstownumc.org, and

let us know the graduate's name, from where he or she is graduating, and with what degree, honors, or certificate. Please have all your information to the church office, no later than Monday, May, 17th. All graduates are encouraged to come to either Worship Service.

On Going Ministries....

DIGGing Deeper | 9:45am | Wesley Room

We are going back into the Old Testament using the study *Reading the Old Testament Through Jewish Eyes*. In this study, Rabbi Evan Moffic shares with us Christians the role of the Torah in Jewish worship and traditions as well as highlights, themes and verses important to Christians from the books of the Torah, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, as well as insights gathered through the centuries from Jewish scholars. These are some of the same resources Jesus studied to help prepare him for his ministry. You are invited to join us as we meet at 9:45 Sunday mornings in the Wesley Room.



Small Group Bible Study | Thursday at 7:30pm | Library

Small group Bible Study | Thursday at 8:00pm | Wesley Room

GriefShare Outreach Ministry | 7:00pm Wednesday | 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, Judy Moore and Tim McDermott. GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the church or community. All are welcome.

The Great Knitting Challenge

It's not too early to begin thinking about next Christmas! If we start now, we can provide mittens, hats and scarves for all of our drive thru dinner friends. This is a great opportunity to use up all that leftover yarn that is filling your knitting basket, however, rumor has it that the Stitch and a Prayer group has a large supply that you can use if needed. If you need patterns please contact Carol Skolnik at cnikskol@gmail.com. Completed items may be placed in the collection box in the narthex. Thank you for your participation!



Bakerstown Methodist Women: mission opportunity.....

Summer is just around the corner! For our June Drive Through Dinner on June 7th we are planning on giving each family a meaningful memory by providing them a "Summer Smile Blessing Bag." We are anticipating 50 bags. We will be collecting items during the month of May. A variety of items will be placed in the bags.

Items needed are:

- beach towels
- single serve lemonade packets
- sunscreen
- sunglasses
- icy pops
- outdoor games (frisbees, jump ropes, ring toss, beach ball)

The items can be placed in the designated boxes by the coat racks as well as in the Storage Closet in the new Fellowship Hall.

Last day to donate will be May 29th.

For further information contact:

Peggy Hill 330-686-4342

Rita Sullivan 252-232-8610

From the Prayer Corner – Praying for Others

One of the very best things we can do for all the people we care about – husband, wife, children, parents, grandparents, friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, or people in need around the world – is to pray for them. We may not be able to provide them with good health, financial security, or protection from all harm, but we CAN pray that God will heal them, provide for them, and keep them safe.

The promise to pray for others is one of the finest gifts we can give them. Every time we seek the presence of God and the release of His power on behalf of someone else, great things can happen. It is the MOST effective way we can touch others and make a difference in their lives.

AND – the most important thing we can pray about for others is that they will know God better and grow in spiritual wisdom and live lives that honor Him.

When we pray for others, we are asking God to make His presence known in their lives. We are asking Him to open their hearts so they can hear from Him. We are asking Him to take care of their needs. That doesn't mean there will always be an immediate response. Sometimes it can take days, weeks, months, or even years. But our prayers are NEVER lost or meaningless. If we are praying, something is happening in the lives of those for whom we are praying, whether we see it or not. Everything that needs to happen in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones cannot happen without the presence and the power of God. Prayer invites and ignites both.

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”

Colossians 1:9

During this month of May, take a post-it-note or an index card, and write down the names of all the people you want to pray for. Put it somewhere that you will see it every day. Then take a few moments each day to bless these people by bringing them and their needs to our Heavenly Father in prayer.

(Portions taken from UMC.org material and Stormie Omartian.)

“In Heaven, next to the wonder of seeing my Savior will be, I think, the wonder that I made so little use of the power of prayer.” - D. L. Moody

*“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, **our prayers do make a difference.**” - Max Lucado*

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 hldrdb@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!

Note of Appreciation

I want to thank the DTD crew for the delicious dinners they have shared as well as other meals I have received from church ladies. We do have great cooks at BUMC! Thanks too, for all the cards and phone calls. They have brightened many days and uplifted me, just like the visits from Pastor Keith. Everyone's kindness and thoughtfulness have been so appreciated. Because of my health issues, I have not been able to get out for church, but I do try to catch the 8:30 service online.

Marie Hopper

Mission Team News.....

Big things are happening on the local mission front. The Neighborhood Table in Sharpsburg welcomed folks into their dining room this month while still providing take out meals for the overflow crowd. Being able to enjoy fellowship around the table again was a very welcome event, one that has been a long time in coming. It is also one that we here at Bakerstown are anticipating for the Drive Thru Dinner. Our tentative plans are to offer an outdoor picnic option this summer, with the hope of moving indoors by late summer. We plan to continue to offer meal pickup for those who prefer that option, and deliveries to our church family members will continue as well. These ministries have proved to be a blessing in so many ways. We have gotten to know neighbors we may never have met were it not for the pandemic. We have learned about the struggles they are facing. We have prayed with them and for them. We are excited to see the great things that God will be doing as we move forward.

The mission team is so grateful for your support of local ministries and your generous giving to support ministries that go beyond our borders. In the month of March, you gave \$875 to the regular UMCOR offering and \$1,690 to the UMCOR Ukraine offering. In addition, \$1,660 was collected from the Pysanky Egg Demonstration for Ukraine. These totals do not reflect April giving. Thank you for your generous support!

As we go press, the Junque Sale is close on the horizon. This is another sign that life as we knew it in the past is returning. As things become more normal, may we continue to look ahead and seek God's plan for us, rather than looking to the past. May we be open to the new challenges God calls us to meet. May we be his good and faithful servants.

Ukraine Relief

Bakerstown UMC has been collecting money for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. In the six weeks since the Russian invasion began, the UMCOR already has received more than \$5 million for aid to displaced persons in Ukraine and refugees arriving in neighboring counties.

UMCOR has so far distributed \$2 million, helping to provide food, water, medicine, shelter, transportation and other services for those on the run. The agency is preparing for a long-haul effort, given that some 4 million Ukrainians have fled the country and a prolonged siege would certainly swell that number.



*Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of **May: 100% fruit juice (any flavor)***

Operation Christmas Child: We are again collecting items to fill shoeboxes for children age 2-12. Your donations may be placed any time in the designated boxes in the Narthex. Items NOT accepted, liquid, food aerosols and military.

May: jump rope, slinky, marbles, puzzles, musical instrument, play dough, games, stickers, etch a sketch, yo-yo, cars

Day School Happenings

It's raining cereal boxes at the Day School! The Day School completed a fun service project by collecting new boxes of unopened cereal to donate to the local food pantry at the Lighthouse. Many people are needing a little helping hand and we like to help while teaching the children to give of themselves. After collecting the boxes, we were able to set up a domino run down the hallway and watch them fall!

We have many upcoming adventures as we prepare for the end of the year. Our Day School classes will travel back to Hampton Acres Farm to learn about planting and watch for signs of spring! Our Art Show is set for Thursday, May 5th from 6-7:30. Every class will display a few art projects and the Kona Ice Truck will be parked to purchase a sweet treat!

We still have a few openings for preschool and full day kindergarten classes for the 2022-2023 school year. Please spread the word and contact Sharon Chapman to learn about our dynamic program and see our beautiful learning spaces.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Two Year Olds: Mon. & Wed. | 9:00-11:30 a.m. |
| Two Year Olds: Tues. & Thurs. | 9:00-11:30 a.m. |
| Three Year Olds (Morning class): Mon. & Wed. | 9:00-11:30 a.m. |
| Three Year Olds (Morning class): Tues. & Thurs. | 9:00-11:30 a.m. |
| 3 Day Pre-K: (Morning) Mon., Wed. & Fri. | 9:00-11:30 a.m. |
| 3 Day Pre-K (Afternoon): Mod., Wed., Fri. | 12:30-3:00 p.m. |
| 4 Day Pre-K (Morning): Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. | 9:00-11:30 a.m. |
| 4 Day Pre-K (Afternoon): Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. | 12:30-3:00 p.m. |
| Full Day Kindergarten: Mon., - Fri. | 9:00-3:00 p.m. |



Day School Summer Camp!

Join us at our Summer Camp for Preschoolers, Kindergarteners and First Grade bound friends!

This year's Summer Camp will be packed with FUN and EXCITING activities that are related to the following weekly themes:

Session 1: "Amazing Artists" - June 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Session 2: "STEAM" - June 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

Registration forms can be found at www.bakerstownumc.org

Minimum Age: Children must have turned 3 by January 1, 2022 and must be potty-trained. (Completely self-reliant in the bathroom.) Age groups will be separated into different classrooms.

Email: director@bakerstownumc.org Call or Text: (724) 272-6032

Children's Ministry News....



Save the Date! Children currently enrolled in **kindergarten - 2nd grade** are invited to a Kingdom Kids' night of fun and fellowship on **Friday, 5/20** from **6-7:30pm**. Please see future bulletins for more details! This is a drop-off event. To RSVP or volunteer, please e-mail Katie Lowell at klowell@bakerstownumc.org.

Save the Date! Children currently enrolled in **3rd-5th grade** are invited to attend an afternoon of games and fellowship on **Sunday, 5/22** from **1:30-3pm**. Please see future bulletins for more details! This is a drop-off event. To RSVP or volunteer, please e-mail Katie Lowell at klowell@bakerstownumc.org.

Below are links to sign up to help with Children's Church for May or to RSVP for your child to attend. We are also in need of snacks.

[May Children's Church Volunteers](#)

[May Children's Church RSVP's](#)

[May Children's Church Snacks](#)



Vacation Bible School — July 11-15 9:00am - 12:30pm

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!! [Registration Form](#)

At Monumental, kids explore the sunbaked Southwestern desert as they dig into God's great love! Vacation Bible School is for children 4 years old through those entering 5th grade. We will enjoy a week of Bible, games, crafts, music and snacks and learn more about God's Great Love! Registration is FREE to all those who register by June 1st 2022. If spaces are still available, late registrations will be accepted after June 1st, but will cost \$10/child.

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
msscott@bakerstownumc.org

Joyce Gindlesperger
Director of Music
jgindlesperger@bakerstownumc.org

Lora Stafura
Office Administrator
lstafura@bakerstownumc.org

Katie Lowell
Children's Ministry Director
klowell@bakerstownumc.org

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

05/02 Keith Vulhop
05/03 Gary Torick
05/03 Nathan Perriello
05/05 Tori Barrett
05/05 Nadia Hines
05/10 Katie Lowell
05/10 Olivia Rommes
05/12 Jennifer Humenik
05/14 Lindsey Soxman
05/14 Skip Lancaster
05/15 Vicki Justus
05/15 Ken Haselrig

05/16 Jaison Rinker
05/16 Stephanie Swisher
05/19 Mary Ann Wilson
05/22 Joyce Gindlesperger
05/27 Nancy Parris
05/27 Jack Redman
05/29 Derek Zynn
05/30 Susan McGrath
05/30 Chuck Waite
05/31 Roger Cramer

05/05 Wally & Sherry Swarmer

05/25 Jake & Hannah Daugherty

05/13 Jim & Charlotte Episcopo

05/26 Gary & Sherry Torick

05/15 Bob & Bonnie Rodgers

05/27 Al & Marsha Kolbe

05/16 David & Kimberly Zynn

05/28 Lake & Camille Barrett

05/19 Parvez & Jamie Khambatta



FINANCE REPORT

| | March 2022 | YTD March 2022 | YTD March 2021 |
|------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Donations: | \$32,175.14 | \$90,258.18 | \$97,408.30 |
| Expenses: | \$40,962.41 | \$107,427.21 | \$102,259.82 |

My calendar says it's April, but I think the weatherman is playing a trick on us. But soon it has to warm up, right?

Thank you for your continued support of our church and its ministries. We have paid all of our bills, including apportionments and contributions to the trustees. In March we had our Worker's comp bill as well as taxes and insurance which is why our expenses were higher. We did move money to our savings for the Major Projects Fund.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks, Kay Cramer...Financial Secretary 724-443-2847