



The Steeple

July-August 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Annual Conference took place from June 2-4 in Erie. Thank you to Keith and Jen Vulhop for serving as our lay members to Annual Conference this year! There were many highlights including the fact that I have been reappointed to Bakerstown and we will start our fifth year together on July 1st. You can find a complete report at www.wpaumc.org.

I do want to bring to your attention two important things that occurred at this year's conference. First, the election of candidates for the episcopacy was held during the opening session. Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn and Rev. Bob Zilhaver were elected. They will be sent on to the Jurisdictional Conference in November. This meeting for the northeastern part of our country will determine if there will be any bishops elected and how many. While it is very early in this process, please join me in praying for God's will to be done in the life of our church.

The second is a piece of legislation passed called the **Actively Waiting Task Force Petition for an Intentional Missional Alignment Process**. This resolution calls for establishment of "three households" within the Western PA Annual Conference:

The **Continuing United Methodist Household** will be available to those who aspire to be working in the mission field with members of differing perspectives on human sexuality. This household aspires to remove sexual orientation as a consideration for fitness for ministry; allow each clergy person to discern if they will or will not officiate for same gender marriages; allow local churches to independently decide whether to host same gender marriages or not; and invite the bishop to use these considerations when making appointments.

The **Traditional Household** will be available to those who aspire to be working in the mission field only with members having a more traditional perspective on human sexuality. Therefore, this Household would aspire to maintain ordination standards pertaining to human sexuality, including prohibition of homosexual practice, and prohibit all clergy and churches from celebrating same-gender marriages.

The **Progressive Household** will be available to those who aspire to be working in the mission field only with members who have a progressive perspective on human sexuality. Therefore, this household would aspire to have the full inclusion of, full affirmation of, and full participation by all people in all aspects of the life of this household and in the lives of its churches, including the ordination and appointment of persons without respect to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Additionally, it would have the celebration of same-gender marriages by all clergy and in all churches in this household.

The legislation also designates phases as elements of the Intentional Missional Alignment Process. There will be detailed processes to assist local churches, laity, and clergy as they move into households within the WPA Conference or potentially make decisions to become a part of other Methodist expressions. It will designate functions which will specifically need to be active throughout the Intentional Missional Alignment Process. An IMAP Task Force will be formed to lead, plan, coordinate, and manage aspects over the next few years (Source: wpaumc.org/Annual Conference Wrap-Up).

We have much to think, discuss and pray about in the coming months! I hope that you will join me in that process as we continue to serve Christ together.

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....

DIGging Deeper | Sunday 9:45am | Wesley Room

We are studying season 1 of the very popular television series *The Chosen*. This series looks at the life of Christ through the eyes of those who followed him. Season 1 consists of 8 episodes that are available for free viewing on the Peacock streaming service or by downloading the *Chosen* app from the App Store for Apple devices or the Google Play store for Android devices. The app is free from those stores. The series is crowd funded and is now in production for season 4. The episodes have been translated into over 50 languages for world wide viewing. You would watch the episode for the week and then discuss it when we meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Wesley Room. See you then.

The Neighborhood Table | July 7 & Aug. 4 | 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 | July 12 & Aug. 9 | 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.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study – Summer Sessions

“Third Thursdays @ 10am” in Fellowship Hall

Here are the dates and the guest teachers:

July 21st – Marcia Shipley

August 18th – Pastor Alyce Weaver Dunn

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

GriefShare Outreach Ministry 2022 Summer/Fall Schedule

Once a month Summer Get-togethers:

July 13th, August 17th – 7pm – in the Wesley Room.

NEW Weekly Session Series begins September 7th through December 7th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

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.

Bakerstown Book Club – Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 10th, at 7:00pm in the Library. Our Discussion Book is: *Uphill Both Ways* by Neta Jackson. Two other books have been suggested to read as well: *The Forgotten Life of Eva Gordon* by Linda MacKillop or the non-fiction book *God Never Blinks: 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours* by Regina Brett. If you love to read, join us on August 10th, whether you've read the books or not. Please just come along and join us for food, fun, and fellowship. All “Book Lovers” are welcome!! There's always chocolate!!

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 cnik-skol@gmail.com. Completed items may be placed in the collection box in the narthex. Thank you for your participation!



Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of July & August: Canned Tuna and Canned Chicken

Children's Ministry News....

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



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 VBS is fast-approaching! To make this amazing week at Bakerstown possible, we need your help please in providing supplies for the children's activities. If you would like to contribute, please access our VBS wish list using the link below or contact Katie Lowell at klowell@bakerstownumc.org.

[VBS Wish Supply List](#)

Backpacks of Blessing

Everyone is invited to donate 1 or more backpacks for local children in need. Bring your donation to our church and pray a blessing over our local schools for the 2022/2023 year.

*******Tags are available on the information center now*******

Backpacks can for a BOY or GIRL AND should include all of the following:

Elementary

Pens
Pencils
Crayons
Construction Paper
Lined Paper
Elmer's Glue
Folders
Book Covers
Ruler
Colored Pencils
Scissors
Erasers
Travel pack Kleenex
Small bottle hand sanitizer
Composition Books
Glue Sticks
Pencil Case
Pencil Sharpener
Lunch Bag
Note Cards -Lined and Unlined

High School

Pens
Pencils
White Out
Note Cards – Lined and Unlined
Graph Paper
Binder Dividers
Travel pack Kleenex
Small bottle hand sanitizer
Composition Books
Highlighters
Small Stapler
Three Ring Binders
Scientific Calculator
Folders
Book Covers
Lined Paper
Glue Sticks
Post It Notes
Construction Paper
Ruler
Colored Pencils
Scissors

From the Prayer Corner—Summer Prayers

O God,
The warmth of the sun's embrace,
the gentle breeze coming in over the lake,
the chirping of birds and crickets,
the buzzing of mosquitos and bees,
the dripping, sticky juice of watermelons,
the smell of smokey campfires,
the clicking of ice cubes in our lemonade.

All of these are signs of summer's arrival.
All of these are ways that we can glimpse You in nature and in our lives.

They remind us that we can see You, feel You, find You, and know You in concrete ways.

This summer, we pray that we may find You and recognize You, God, as we walk through this world.
As we feel the sunlight peering through the windows even before our alarms have time to ring, may we also feel Your love filling our lives.

As we hear the casting of fishing poles and the light drips of jumping fish in the water, may we also hear Your voice calling our names and beckoning us to listen to You throughout our day.

As we search for relaxation and renewal, as we look for connection and family, may we also look for where You are calling us and where You are pointing us to serve.

As we scratch our bug bites and soothe our sunburn, may we also soothe those facing deeper pains and hurts in their lives right now. May we pay attention to the itch within, the nudge of Your Holy Spirit, to live for the sake of others, showing them the beauty that exists in Your world and sharing our compassion and generosity with them.

Summer is filled with many wonderful things and experiences. May our summers also be filled to the brim with Your presence and our connection to You and to each other.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Portions taken from an article by Brooke Steiner)

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!

Mission Team News.....

It has been a year and a half since the mission team has been providing monthly meals for clients of The Lighthouse as well as continuing our work at the Roots of Faith every month. The congregation's support of these and other outreach initiatives of the mission team has been amazing! During this time, the team has never lacked for volunteers or financial support. The Blessing Bags that were distributed in June are just one example of the "over the top" support for these ministries. Your support is appreciated more than you can imagine.

In order for these outreach ministries to happen, there needs to be both financial support and volunteer support. People are needed to plan and shop for the meals, prepare and plate the meals, and pack and distribute them. The mission team would like to express our gratitude by holding a Volunteer Appreciation Day on **fill in the date**. ***If you prayed for these ministries, supported them financially, volunteered your time, contributed to the Blessing Bags, helped with the Junque Sale, or shopped at Amazon Smile, you qualify as a volunteer!*** You need to know that every member of the congregation has helped to make these ministries possible. They couldn't happen without you! Please be sure to attend worship on **fill in the date** to enjoy a token of our appreciation.

As the months have gone by, we have seen the numbers of people requesting meals rise considerably. In June we provided over 200 meals at the Drive Thru Dinner and 150 at the Roots of Faith in Sharpsburg. Given the current economic situation, numbers are likely to continue rising. Thank you for your support of this outreach to our neighbors. You are truly being the hands and feet of Jesus.

A Few Notes of Thanks:

BUMC Worker Bees, thank you for the picnic lunch. We ate inside as a storm was coming. First picnic in a while with no bugs! The cheeseburger was out of this world delicious! We'll be making them like that some time. Everything hit the spot and was so much appreciated. The Blessing Bag is precious and adorable. We will be passing the toys along to two little girls and I know their smiles will be your thank you.

Your team is amazing! What a lovely summer gift! Two things I really needed was a new beach towel and spray sunscreen for my grandkids when they come to swim in Nana's pool. We have had a pool since my girls were little. Now their little ones enjoy it. I was in Sam's Club a few days ago and was looking at the beach towels. My towels are quite used. I needed chicken, so I passed up buying a towel. Lo and behold, the joy I felt when there was a beautiful towel in the pretty bag. You guys blessed me again!

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.

July: Hands on Items: hammer, nails, measuring tape, fliers, solar calculator, small flashlight with batteries, sewing kits, fabric, ribbon, chalk, binoculars, gardening seeds

August: Clothing/Accessories: T-shirts and hats (no words or pictures), socks, scarves, sunglasses, gloves, underwear, bandana, outfit of clothing, tote bags, jewelry, flip flops



The Bakerstown Methodist Women would like to thank you all for contributing items or money for our mission project. We were able to fill 50 Summer Blessing Bags for families coming to our drive thru dinner on June 7th. We could not begin to undertake this project with your generosity, prayers and support. Have a safe and blessed summer, Peggy Hill & Rita Sullivan

July & August Birthday's

07/03 Carol Skolnik	07/26 Dorothy Sarver	08/01 Jacob Meuschke	08/15 Mike Justus
07/03 Jane Ditmore	07/26 Bonnie Baird	08/02 Wes Shipley	08/16 Louise Himes
07/06 Evelyn Dick	07/27 Jodi Miller	08/02 Lora Stafura	08/17 Jennifer Vulhop
07/06 Chelsea Amick	07/27 Parvez Khambatta	08/02 Dawn Conroy	08/19 Allisa Negley
07/07 Sam Cramer	07/28 Carol Redman	08/03 Liam Kennah	08/19 Bob Rodgers
07/09 Denise Staub	07/29 Katelyn Macik	08/03 Izzy Banjak	08/21 Braden Sutter
07/09 John Berkner	07/30 Frank Wood	08/06 Cindy Rice	08/23 Lisa Banjak
07/10 Kathleen Meuschke	07/30 Michael Matty	08/06 Pamm Holcomb	08/25 Katelyn Humenik
07/12 Louise Wu	07/30 Heather Detar	08/06 Shannon Sworden,	08/26 Janet Allaman
07/15 Teresa Nucci		08/06 Heather Ladesic	08/27 Keith Irwin
07/20 Caleb Stevens		08/08 Darrick Brown	08/29 Alana McGrath
07/20 Josh Banjak		08/08 Robert Ladesic	08/31 Micah Lowell
07/21 Leslie Olson		08/10 Brad Kyle	08/31 Brittanie Cosgrove
07/21 Brock Leasure		08/12 Zach Meuschke	
07/23 Joan Donaldson		08/13 Lori Waite	
07/23 John Staub		08/13 Palmer Holcomb	
07/24 Richard Sieman		08/13 Joyce Chalfant	

July & August Anniversaries

July

07/03 Greg & Sheria Mason
 07/05 Dan & Mary Pouchot
 07/07 Wilson & Marlene Haller
 07/08 Doug & Lindsey Soxman
 07/12 Paul & Laurie McLeister
 07/20 Reed & Ginny Campbell
 07/25 Greg & Jane Ditmore
 07/25 Darrick & Heather Brown
 07/31 Bob & Denise Grier
 07/31 Jaison & Becky Rinker

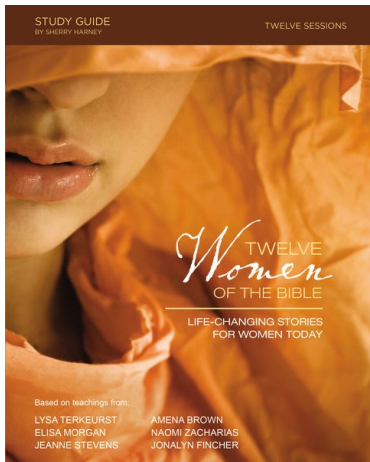
August

08/01 John & Jen Humenik
 08/01 Micah & Katie Lowell
 08/02 Robert & Gayle Santillo
 08/08 Don & Janet Allaman, Sr.
 08/12 Andrew & Heather Detar
 08/16 Aaron & Amy Jewitt
 08/18 John & Debbie Brumberg
 08/21 Bernard & Jayne Cain
 08/28 Roger & Kay Cramer

Looking towards fall. . . .

GriefShare Outreach Ministry | 7:00pm Wednesday | Wesley Room
NEW Weekly Session Series begins September 7th through December 7th

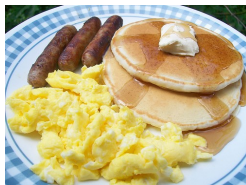
If you or someone you know is experiencing the loss of a loved one, we encourage you to please accept this as your personal invitation to join with us. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences so that you don't have 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.



NEW – Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study beginning September 8th at 9:00am: Twelve Women of the Bible. In this twelve-session small group journey, taught by six acclaimed Bible teachers (Lysa TerKeurst, Naomi Zacharias, Elisa Morgan, Amena Brown, Jeanne Stevens, and Jonalyn Fincher), we will meet a group of amazing women in the Bible who are absolutely real. We will learn more about Eve, Rebekah, Leah, Hannah, Abigail, Mary, Martha, the Woman at the Well, among others.

At first we might wonder why God captured these particular stories in the Bible. But, as we press on, we will discover that their raw and revealing stories of frailties, struggles, sins and brokenness are a real gift to women today. We'll discover lessons from each of these women that will help us persevere through the circumstances we are facing. We will learn how to: Apply biblical lessons to our own modern-day struggles; Live through our failures as well as our successes; Draw

near to God in a world filled with trials; Find lasting contentment in every situation; and Overcome rejection and insecurity. Their stories are not fairytales, their road was not easy, and their examples are not perfect. They lived in times and places quite different than ours. Yet they hold up a mirror to our souls that can help us better understand our own story. And in doing so, we find freedom to come to God as we are, with total transparency, honest and real. Come and join us. Study Guides are \$10.00.



All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast! |Saturday, September 17th| 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, September 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.

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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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.

	May 2022	YTD May 2022	YTD May 2021
Donations:	\$31,232.49	\$164,045.40	\$167,653.93
Expenses:	\$63,291.43	\$210,750.08	\$168,861.51

Hello friends..Hope you are adjusting to this heat wave we are having. As much as we complain

about the snow, it is good to have some hot weather every now and then.

We have paid all of our bills, including apportionments and contributions to the trustees. In May payments for upgrades to the sanctuary lighting and the new convection ovens for the kitchen were made which caused our expenses to be higher. This funding came from the Major Projects Fund, which we continue to move money to that savings each month for these types of major expenses.



If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Kay Cramer, Financial Secretary at 724-443-2847