



The Steeple

September 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We have been spending the “Summer with the Psalms” as the basis of our sermons. I have been blessed by the opportunity to explore some of the themes found there. I continue to be amazed by the way the Spirit uses God’s word to connect with our feelings and circumstances.

Over the past several months, we have discovered that God is the source of blessing and security. We have delighted in God’s word as the place where we can discover God’s will and direction for our lives. We have been reminded of God’s ability to help us even in those times when God seems absent.

We have found opportunity to rejoice in wonder and praise for the creative power of our Almighty God.

The book of Psalms speaks to the range of human emotion and demonstrates the importance of sharing those words with God. While it is a gift to gain ways to express doubt, fear and even anger to God, the Psalms provide an even greater message. The Psalmist speaks to the Lord with a faith that reveals to us who God is. We hear throughout the Psalms that God is good and loves us faithfully. We are reminded that no matter what we are facing or feeling, God is greater than anything. It is comforting to know God’s goodness, love and faithfulness remain even in the strange times in which we live.

We are a few weeks away from completing our series on the Psalms. It will conclude not with the last one in the bible but with the most familiar. The twenty-third Psalm is beloved for the picture it paints of God as a shepherd tenderly caring for the sheep. With the words, “Surely goodness and mercy will follow me, all the days of my life” ringing in our ears, we will move to our next sermon series, which will examine how Jesus applied the words of the Psalms to his ministry and to our lives.

As we continue to navigate our way through the pandemic, it is beneficial to be reminded of God’s goodness and never-failing love. It is good to know we can go to the Lord with all that we are feeling and experiencing. I would encourage us to continue to be in prayer for one another as we serve Christ and our community together through the ministries of Bakerstown United Methodist Church.

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

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

DIGging Deeper s |9:45am| Wesley Room **We are beginning a new study on Romans on 8/29**

We are not meeting on Sunday. September 5

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 | Sept. 2| 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 | Sept. 7| 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 cnik-skol@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

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

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. The same class is taught on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning.

GriefShare Outreach Ministry 2021 Fall Schedule **NEW weekly meetings begin September 8th**

through December 8th, Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm till 8:30pm in the 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.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study begins a **NEW** study on Thursday September 9th at

9:00am. Join us for the study Twelve Women of the Bible and learn from some of today's best loved authors and speakers like Lisa Harper and Margaret Feinberg as they look at the spiritual lessons we can learn from twelve Biblical women – women like Priscilla, Deborah, Puah and Shiphrah, Anna, Elizabeth, Mary and Martha, the Shulamite Woman, and more - and what they mean for today's women. Workbooks are \$10.00. We will meet in New Fellowship Hall. Masks and social distancing may be required at this time.

Drive-Thru Pancake Breakfast—Saturday, September 18th

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, September 18th |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.

Mission Team News.....

Mission Trip Recap

On July 25th, 9 people left from Bakerstown UMC for a mission trip to White Oak, Tennessee. Our team met with a group of 19 from Ebensburg UMC. The White Oak area has a high percentage of folks living well below the poverty level with an average household income roughly around \$20,000 a year. Throughout the week, we were able to help 4 families with some much-needed home repairs. We were also able to do some improvements around the White Oak facility where we were housed.

Even more important than completing the projects was the friendships we built with each other and the other team, the ways we saw God working throughout the week, and the ways that we grew closer to God through the week. It was amazing to see God working through the nine people that we sent. God did some powerful things in our team. These nine people are now closer to God because of this experience.

Also making this trip possible were the 12 prayer partners and numerous financial donors. I view the prayer partners as part of the team. It's nice for the team to know that they have one or two people specifically praying for them throughout the week. I also thank each and every donor who made it possible for us to put gas in our vehicles and made it possible for us to afford the material to complete our projects.

I have always felt that there are not too many words that can adequately describe a mission trip. It is something that people need to experience. I pray that our mission team would grow in participants and prayer partners next year. I encourage you to sign up next year for a powerful experience in your Christian walk. Be on the lookout for information beginning early next year.

Pastor Matt

Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of September: cereal and breakfast bars

The Junque Sale scheduled for Saturday, September 25th has been postponed until
Saturday, April 30, 2022

Thanks to all who have supported The Neighborhood Table and the Drive Thru Dinner in these summer months when many of our regular volunteers have been away on vacation. A special thank you goes to Camille and Lake Barrett for heading up TNT meal on August 5, Ray Wilson for heading up the DTD on August 10, and Lora Stafura for managing desserts for both meals throughout the summer. The Mission Team is thankful for the many ways you, the congregation, have supported both of these outreach ministries.

Clients of The Lighthouse continue to express their appreciation for the DTD. Many of them tell us that we can't begin to know how much the meals mean to them. As we chat while their meals are being brought out, they often share the challenges they are facing. Most stop to pray with Pastor Keith before leaving the parking lot with their meals and a note of Christian encouragement. Souls and bodies are being fed!

Upcoming Dates:

TNT in Sharpsburg – Thursday, September 2 (always the first Thursday of the month)

DTD at Bakerstown – Tuesday, September 7 (always the following Tuesday)

From the Prayer Corner – Learning to Pray with the Apostle Paul

In Ephesians Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul models for us how to pray. He pauses his teaching and breaks forth into prayer, asking God the Father to strengthen us by His Holy Spirit in our inner being so that we can experience a deeper revelation of His love. This prayer is divided into three parts: Approach God (vs 14-15); Ask God (vs 16-19); and Adore God (verses 20-21).

#1 – **Approach God:** What is Paul’s posture here? He is bowing his knee, coming humbly before the Father. This small gesture reminds us that we are approaching a mighty God who upholds the universe with His power and to Whom all glory, honor, and praise is due. And Paul prays to God the Father. While Scripture is filled with prayers that are directed to Jesus or the Holy Spirit, the approach that we are taught by Jesus and that we see here modeled by Paul is prayer to the Father. A simple structure to remember is: Pray to the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the authority of Jesus. Our attitude in prayer is as a child engaging a caring and compassionate Father, with confidence and humility.

#2 – **Ask God:** In verses 16-19 Paul requests several things – that we would be strengthened with power, that Christ would dwell in our hearts through faith, that we would be rooted and grounded in and grasp how wide, long, high, and deep is the love of Christ, and that we would be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Why does Paul pray for us to grasp God’s love at the deepest level? Because the Christian life is from beginning to end a life of love. First we are invited to experience God’s lavish love and then we demonstrate His love to the world. The imagery used in this prayer is of a fountain filling up a vessel to overflowing. Our innermost beings are that vessel that is meant to overflow with the love of Christ to others.

#3 – **Adore God:** Lastly, in verses 20-21, Paul bursts into a doxology, otherwise known as a “word of glory to God”. Having meditated upon the amazing work of God in redemption, and having prayed for us to be rooted in Christ’s love, Paul ends his prayer with praise to God. To adore God means we express back to Him our worship and our love. As we contemplate all that God accomplished in Jesus Christ to forgive us, redeem us, adopt us, cherish us, and establish us as His masterpiece and His children, heartfelt praise is the only right response. And besides exalting the name of our God, Paul’s doxology encourages us with the fact that the Lord “is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.” Our God is limitless and inexhaustible in power!

Take a few minutes this month to read Ephesians chapter 3, and remember, there is no limit to what God can achieve for you, and it is impossible for you to ask Him to do too much. Don’t let fear or unbelief hinder your prayers. We are reminded today that our God can do “infinitely more” than we can ask or imagine. Approach Him. Ask Him. And Adore Him. He’s got you! He’s got the whole world in His hands!

(Portions taken from an article by Marian Jordan)

Card shower for Helen Deer! Helen’s birthday is September 17th, her family would like us to shower her with cards! You can use the following address: 17 Regional Drive, Apt. #206 Pinehurst, NC 28374

September Birthdays

09/01 Doug Kyle	09/17 Helen Deer
09/01 Gail Strain	09/21 Leageay Staub
09/02 Kay Cramer	09/21 Beth Joyce
09/02 Barb Testa	09/22 Catie Edinger
09/02 Liam McGrath	09/25 Eden Jewitt
09/04 Erin McGrath	09/26 Anne Stevens
09/04 Logan Rommes	09/27 Ashley Mankamyer
09/08 Jody Mankamyer	09/28 Aaron Stevens
09/11 Emma Ladesic	09/29 Terri Murray
09/12 Michael Fischetti	09/30 Cynthia Young
09/13 Brad Naeser	
09/14 Willie Haselrig	
09/14 Jennifer Kyle	
09/15 Phillip Kenzie	
09/16 Wally Swarmer	
09/16 Amy Jewitt	

September Anniversaries

09/02 Keith & Jennifer Vulhop	09/07 Howard & Lisa Cope
09/06 James & Katie Scalise	09/20 Gregg & Sharon Platt

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.

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*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
 for the transformation of the world.*

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Children's and Youth Ministry

Your Staff Parish Relations Committee has been looking for someone to serve as a Children's and Youth Ministry Director this summer. Unfortunately, we have not found the right person to fill this position. We will begin looking for a Children's Ministry Director and a Youth Ministry Director. It might sound strange to search for two persons when we could not find one. We are hoping that more focused positions will attract strong candidates. In the meantime, plans are in the works to provide ministry to both children and youth. Please watch your bulletins, the website and your e-mail for more details.

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.



FINANCE REPORT

		June 2021	July 2021	YTD July 2021	YTD July 2020
Donations:	\$44,308.16	\$40,029.00	\$248,650.93	\$291,345.33	
Expenses:	\$53,564.95	\$30,626.65	\$253,053.11	\$314,511.28	

Hello church family. A note of explanation for the report I have given... Included in the above figures are a stock donation and expenses taken from the Major Project Fund. Both of these occurred in June 2021.

As a church we were able to transfer monies into our savings for Major Projects in July. Thank you for your generous support. The savings for Future Endeavor was capped by the Church Council so no additional savings will go there until the need arises.

As always you can call me with questions...Kay Cramer 724-443-2847

See you at church...I will recognize you :)