

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! There has always been a part of me that envies the first disciples of Jesus. They knew exactly what he looked like and how he sounded. They were able to watch how he lived, the way he related to others and his spiritual life. When the Gospel writer Luke introduces Jesus teaching the Lord's prayer, he makes a connection to what the disciples observed about Jesus. "He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'" (Luke 11:1)

While we may not share the first disciples' experience of Jesus, we are blessed to have the stories contained in the gospels and the model of prayer He gave them. During Lent, we will meditate together on the Lord's prayer or as some call it the disciples' prayer. I thought it might be meaningful to take a deeper look at it because it is so familiar to us. We pray it when we worship together and some of us use it daily. There are times when we pray it without thinking about the significance of what we are praying.

The sermon series is entitled, "Lord Teach Us to Pray" and begins on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. As you already know, the prayer opens with the phrase "Our Father who art in heaven." There are a few questions that immediately come to mind. Why do we pray "our" instead of "my"? What is the importance of calling God Father especially when there are so many other names for God in the scripture?

On March 5<sup>th</sup> we will be considering what it means to pray, "Hallowed be thy name." To hallow something is to sanctify or make it holy. Since the name of God is already holy, what are we asking God to do in this part of the prayer? What role do we play in making God's name holy?

The third Sunday in Lent is when we will be examining the phrase, "Thy kingdom come thy will be done." The Kingdom of God is an important theme in the gospels. Jesus told parables about it and proclaimed the good news of the kingdom. When we pray for God's Kingdom to come, we are praying for God's rule to be made known more explicitly on earth. We pray we will operate under God's reign.

"Give us this day our daily bread" is the focus of the fourth Sunday in Lent. We will be thinking about the ways God enriches and sustains us daily. This is a prayer of faith trusting that God will meet our spiritual and physical needs.

On March 26 we will discover some challenging concepts that are part of the Lord's prayer in the sermon entitled "Sin and Evil." We will be looking at the phrases, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Jesus taught that our ability to receive forgiveness is directly tied to our willingness to forgive others. He instructed us to pray in a way that places that principle in action. We are also reminded that our desire to be forgiven is connected to a motivation to avoid evil.

As you can see, the Lord's prayer has beauty and meaning we often miss when we pray it. My prayer for this Lent is that we may grow closer to God as we pray and reflect on the prayer Jesus taught us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Keith

*Join Us for worship! ON Sundays at 8:30am and 11:00am*

*Adult small group at 9:45am*

Nursery (available at 11:00am) *Upper Education Wing* **Nursery is available for infants and children up to 4 years old**

*Junior Church will be dismissed after the children's moment at 11:00am worship*

**New Women's Bible Study for Lent** begins Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am: **Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More** by Melissa Spoelstra.

As we study the chapters Isaiah wrote—from his challenging words to the nation of Israel to his prophecies of the Messiah to come—we will learn to rest in God's promises and grow in trust. In this 7-session study, Isaiah's words will reveal that you can trust God more than your own human effort or the counterfeits the world suggests. His message echoes into our lives today as we read his call to rely on the Lord. Using the genres of poetry, narrative, and prophecy, Isaiah communicated clearly that followers of God could trust in Him. You won't be striving harder, but instead trusting more deeply the Faithful One who is so worthy of our utter dependence. In Him you'll find the comfort and peace you need to sustain you. Please come along and join with us to study the book of Isaiah during Lent! Workbooks are \$17.00.

**Our GriefShare Outreach Ministry begins NEW Weekly Sessions on Wednesday, March 1st, 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 co-led by Rev. Bill Dambach, Marcia Shipley, Marge Kirkpatrick, Tim McDermott, and Judy Moore.

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 1. GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the community. All are welcome.

**The Neighborhood Table |Mar. 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 | Mar. 7 |Fellowship Hall**

The Mission Team has been serving a monthly meal for The Lighthouse . If the Lord is calling you to participate in this ministry either by helping with food prep in the kitchen, packing meals, delivering them to our church friends or to cars, please plan on coming to the fellowship hall at

2:30pm, or if you have any other questions, please contact Carol Skolnik at [cnikskol@gmail.com](mailto:cnikskol@gmail.com).



Don't forget to spring forward  
and turn you clocks ahead

1 hour on March 12th

**All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast! |Saturday, Mar. 18| 8:00-11:00am | Fellowship Hall** Breakfast will be served from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. \$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, Mar. 18 |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!!!!

**An invitation to join Stitch 'N Prayer**

This group was started at BUMC many years ago for the purpose of making blankets (quilted, fleece, knitted and crocheted) for Project Linus, which is an organization that collects blankets to distribute to seriously ill children in hospitals, children in shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need. The distribution point in Pittsburgh is located in Whitehall. This past year 13, 361 blankets were delivered from the Pittsburgh location to 47 different hospitals and agencies.

Our ministry here at BUMC has since expanded to make a quilt for each child baptized in our church and to provide a quilt or prayer shawl to someone who is ill or in need. Our group here at BUMC has donated many blankets. The scraps from fabric are used to make dog and cat pillows and donated to animal shelters.

We meet in old fellowship hall at 10:00 each month that the Men's Pancake Breakfast is held to make blankets. We provide the fabric or yarn and we have sewing machines or you can bring your own. We also accept crocheted or knitted blankets. If you don't sew there are other things you can do....cutting, pressing, etc. If you can't join us and would like to make blankets or crochet or knit at home, we can provide you with fabric or yarn and guidelines for sizes.

We would welcome you to join us to participate in this very worthy mission. If you have any questions please contact Marge Kirkpatrick (724/443-2272), Mary Pouchot (724/777-1480) or Louise Himes (724/256-5078).

**Kingdom Kids-** All kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> graders are invited to join us in New Fellowship Hall on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm. We will spend the evening learning a Bible lesson, playing games, creating crafts, and enjoying a snack of course! Please RSVP using [this link](#) by 3/3 so that we can prepare accordingly. Please contact Katie Lowell at [klowell@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:klowell@bakerstownumc.org) with any questions.

**JUMP-** Calling all 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> graders! Please join us in New Fellowship Hall for our next meeting on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> for a pizza lunch and activities from 12:15pm-1:45pm. Please RSVP using [this link](#) by 3/5. Please contact Katie Lowell at [klowell@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:klowell@bakerstownumc.org) with any questions.

**Junior Church-** After the children's moment with Pastor Keith during the 11am service, children are dismissed to the education wing. This winter we will be using the *Digging Into Foundations of Faith* curriculum to answer the questions: "How Do I Live God's Way?"

Children who are preschool age and younger should report to the nursery. Children who are enrolled in elementary school will be divided into two classes: Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> grades. To RSVP for Junior Church, please use [this link!](#) Please have your children join us even if you forget to RSVP. We always have room and extra supplies on hand.

**Junior Church Volunteers-** To support this program during the 11am service, we need your help please! We are looking for volunteers to serve as rotating lead and assistant teachers each week. If your child will be attending Junior Church, we ask that you please volunteer at least one Sunday this winter. NO PREP WORK IS REQUIRED!!! Activity directions and materials will be provided to you each Sunday morning. This volunteer opportunity is for both adults and youth. Current child abuse clearances must be on file with the church office in order to volunteer. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please sign up using [this link](#).

**Ignite**—Bakerstown Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 6:00-7:30pm. Open to all kids from 6th-12th grade. Weekly meetings, which include Bible study, worship, games, and fellowship and give all youth an opportunity to explore their faith while developing lasting friendships. If you want to be involved in our Youth Ministry Program, or have questions concerning a program, contact Pastor Keith at 724-443-3184 or [kdunn@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:kdunn@bakerstownumc.org)

### **Good Friday Community Women's Breakfast Friday, April 7, 2023, 8:00am – 9:00am**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3832 Gibsonia Road, Gibsonia PA 15044  
The TLC Women invite you to the Good Friday Community Women's Breakfast. Suggested donation is \$8 per person, payable at the door. Reservations are needed so we know how much food to prepare. **Please call the church office at 724-443-8110 or email [telc@zoominternet.net](mailto:telc@zoominternet.net) and register by Monday, April 3, 2023. Bring a couple of friends!**

**Guest Speaker: Jayme Steighner, Senior Programs Director, The Lighthouse Foundation. Jayme will share her personal testimony of faith.**

**Good Friday Community Men's Breakfast** – presented by the congregations of the Richland Ecumenical Ministerium.

**Friday, April 7, 2023, 7:30am at the Bakerstown United Methodist Church, 5760 William Flynn Highway, Gibsonia, PA**

Tickets are \$10 for Adults, \$5 for 10yrs and under, payable at the door. Please call the office at Bakerstown United Methodist Church to register at 724-443-3184 or email at [lsta-fura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lsta-fura@bakerstownumc.org). Bring along a couple friends or family members!

Guest Speaker: Rick Dayton, KDKA-AM Radio afternoon host



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
July 10-14 — 9:00am - 12:00pm

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!

More information coming soon!

## From the Prayer Corner – A Month of Fasting for Lent

### The Fasting (and Feasting!) Life

Fast from judging others;  
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.  
Fast from fear of illness;  
Feast on the healing power of God.  
Fast from words that hurt;  
Feast on speech that honors.  
Fast from discontent;  
Feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger;  
Feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism;  
Feast on hope.  
Fast from negatives;  
Feast on the positive.  
Fast from bitterness;  
Feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self-concern;  
Feast on compassion.  
Fast from doubt;  
Feast on truth.  
Fast from gossip;  
Feast on purposeful silence.  
Fast from anxiety;  
Feast on faith.  
Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
Feast on prayer that sustains.

- Author Unknown

**For this 2023 season of Lent, fast from the negatives of life – and feast on Faith – and on prayer that sustains!!**

### **A PERSONAL INVITATION TO YOU!!**

The Prayer Team would like to extend an invitation to be part of the BUMC Prayer Team and have the privilege of praying for our church, our community, and each other. All are welcome. Simply send your e-mail address to Lora Stafura ([lstafura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lstafura@bakerstownumc.org)) or Cathy Dambach ([hwdambach@consolidated.net](mailto:hwdambach@consolidated.net)) or Heather Brown ([hirdab@hotmail.com](mailto:hirdab@hotmail.com)) and you will begin to receive the e-mail prayer requests that go out periodically.

The BUMC mission team continues to be busy with preparing and serving monthly meals at the Roots of Faith in Sharpsburg and the Drive Thru Dinner here in Bakerstown. Our awesome **United Methodist Men** are contributing to the cause by preparing an in-person Pancake Dinner for our Drive Thru friends and our church family members who receive meals on drive thru nights. The Pancake Dinner will take place on Wednesday, March 22. It's sure to be a wonderful way to welcome the official start of spring thanks to the UMM!



Spring also means it is time to start saving your Junque! The Junque Sale is the mission team's primary fundraiser each year. **This year's date is Saturday, April 22.** Stay tuned for information on how to volunteer your help during the week before and on the day of the sale. Thanks once again to Nicole Edinger for heading up the Junque Sale team.

From the Mission Mailbox:

Happy Valentine's Day! God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. (1 John 4:16 NLT) I found this and thought it was so precious to tell you our heartfelt thoughts of all you do for others. Thank you ever so much for the great meal. It's always so nice to be greeted with smiles and positive thoughts. Thank you all for the terrific job you always pull together.



Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of **March—Mac & Cheese, instant mashed potatoes or cans of tuna/chicken**

## Day School Chalkboard

**DAYSCHOOL REGISTRATION—2023-2023 REGISTRATION -- OPEN TO ALL** for our 2 year old classes, 3 year old classes, 4 year old classes and Full Day Kindergarten classes.

Two Year Old Classes: Mon. & Wed.	9:00-11:30 a.m.
Two Year Old Classes: Tues. & Thurs.	9:00-11:30 a.m.
Three Year Old Classes ( 2 Days) Tues. & Thurs.	9:00-11:30 a.m.
Three Year Old Classes ( 3 Days) Mon., Wed. & Fri.	9:00-11:30 a.m.
Four Year Old Classes ( 3 Days) Mod., Wed., Fri.	9:00-11:30a.m.
Four Year Old Classes ( 4Days) Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.	9:00-11:30 a.m.
Full Day Kindergarten: Mon., - Fri.	9:00-3:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Chapman at [director@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:director@bakerstownumc.org) or 724-272-6032. If your little one is moving onto public school Kindergarten or First Grade, please feel free to share with friends and neighbors looking for a Pre-K program or a Full Day Kindergarten.



**Day School Sarris Candy Sale!!!** If you plan on buying Sarris for St. Patrick's Day, and/or Easter, please consider buying with this link to support the Bakerstown United Methodist Day School. Shipping is FREE and it will be delivered right to your door (there is a \$5 packaging & handling fee applied by Sarris, though). It's a pretty yummy deal! You can order online at [www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com) and use the organization name Bakerstown United Methodist Day School and Group Id 10-3713. Thank you for your support!



## YOUTH CAMPING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Men's Group would like to encourage parents to consider sending their children to a faith-based camping experience this summer.

As an added incentive, the UMM are providing scholarships to cover up to \$500 of the cost of the event your child would like to attend.

Our conference affiliated camps are Camp Allegheny, Jumonville and Wesley Woods, but the scholarships may also be used for children that want to attend another faith-based summer camp experience.

There is a form to fill out, so if you are interested, please see Roger Cramer or Pastor Keith or call Lora in the church office (724-443-3184) to receive the form.

## Giant Eagle Grocery Cards available following the 8:30am service!

The church receives a portion of every grocery card we sell, those proceeds will support projects around the church. A slow-and-steady program, we need you to continue to keep it rolling by simply grocery cards to do your weekly grocery shopping or buying gift cards as special gifts. You can buy grocery cards to purchase other gift cards at Giant Eagle as well. **\*\*If you don't get a chance to purchase your grocery certificates on Sunday, you can stop by the church office during office hours, to get one. \*\***

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

03/03 Becky Kyle  
03/03 Kristyn Robinson  
03/03 Roman Mason  
03/03 Chase Rinker  
03/04 Kurt Olson  
03/05 Dorothy Cramer  
03/06 Jim Werkmeister  
03/08 Penny Fischetti  
03/08 Eva Hines  
03/09 Chuck Koval  
03/10 Sarah Olson  
03/12 Benjamin Haselrig  
03/14 Bryce Cramer  
03/14 Kathy Cleary  
03/16 Wilson Haller

03/17 Alice Berkner  
03/17 Dean Kelley  
03/17 Drew Bechtold  
03/18 Marie Edinger  
03/18 Tyler Szalc  
03/18 Marlene Haller  
03/19 Joy Lancaster  
03/19 Tahnee Hines  
03/20 Rachel Lapp  
03/21 Verna Feather  
03/24 Paul Edinger  
03/24 Tommy Waite  
03/25 Ellen Kelley  
03/26 Sally Borland  
03/27 Jeanine Daluisio

03/28 Jamie Van Lenten  
03/29 Ross Shipley  
03/31 Jim Semler  
03/31 Shawn Negley

Kurt & Leslie Olson ~ March 18

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Our church has been blessed over the past several years. Not only did we survive the pandemic, but we added two significant ministries - livestreaming worship and serving Drive Through Dinners to members of our community. We continue to provide quality worship, music ministry, a Day School, children's and youth ministries, small groups, and bible studies. Along the way, our Trustees have directed the routine maintenance of our properties and major projects such as the replacement of the church roof, upgrading the sanctuary lights and replacing or refurbishing of air conditioning units.

You may have noticed something else in the past several years. You have not been asked for financial support for any of the building repairs, launching of new ministries or continuing ministries. Your faithful giving to our church has made all of this happen. Because of your generosity, we finished 2022 in a strong financial position moving into this year. Thank you!

We have accomplished so much because God has blessed us tremendously individually and as a congregation. While we praise God for what has been done, your Finance Committee has two trends we are watching. The first is a decline in our giving over the past couple of years. This has been a result of some deaths that have taken place in our congregation and folks who have moved or left because of the pandemic. The second trend is rising costs, which we all experience every time we our pay bills or go to the grocery store.

As leaders of our church, we wanted to take this opportunity to communicate about the financial life of the church and make you aware of the realities we face. While it is important for us to meet the obligations set by our budget, it is equally crucial for us spiritually to give and to grow in stewardship of the gifts God has given us. Giving reminds us that what we have is a gift from God. It reinforces the fact that we trust in God regardless of our circumstances. Giving takes the focus away from our desires and places it on God and the needs of others. All of this is important!

We appreciate every gift given to our church and the support of our ministries. Your annual statement of giving is enclosed with this letter. As you review it, we would like you to prayerfully consider increasing your support of our church in 2023 so we can continue the ministry God has called us to.

In Christ,

Your Finance Committee

## **Note of Appreciation...**

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and meals after my recent foot surgery. Bakerstown UMC is a loving and caring family. Thank you again, Lora Stafura

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](mailto:kdunn@bakerstownumc.org)

Joyce Gindlesperger  
Director of Music  
[jgindlesperger@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:jgindlesperger@bakerstownumc.org)

Lora Stafura  
Office Administrator  
[lstafura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lstafura@bakerstownumc.org)

Katie Lowell  
Children's Ministry Director  
[klowell@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:klowell@bakerstownumc.org)



## Holy Week Worship Schedule

**Palm Sunday Worship Services**  
April 2nd at 8:30am & 11:00am

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 6th at 7:30pm

**Good Friday Worship Service**  
April 7th at 7:30pm

**Easter Sunday Worship Services**  
April 9th at 8:30 am & 11:00 am



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
**FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT**

	January 2023	January 2022
Donations:	\$30,293.57	\$30,476.40
Expenses:	\$31,072.02	\$28,841.25

These reflect all the donations and expenses the church has incurred for the Current Fund and donations by members to other funds.

These also happen to be the Current Fund income and expenses as no money was donated to other funds in January 2023 or January 2022.

I hope you are enjoying this weather, considering it's February :)

Thank you for generously supporting your church. Our children's program is growing...why not come to church to see some of the changes? If you would like offering envelopes, give me a call. Or if you have a question. Thanks, Kay Cramer, financial secretary 724-443-2847