

The Steeple

May-June 2024

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We have been blessed to see some growth in families, children, and youth attending our church over the past couple of years. Participation in our youth ministry is increasing. We average roughly 10-15 each Sunday. In September we are expecting to see 6-12 sixth graders added to our youth group.

This is the result of excellent Children's ministry and an increase in the number of families worshipping at our church. When Katie Lowell was hired as our Children's Ministry Director a couple of years ago, she had a goal of creating a ministry for third through fifth graders. She started Junior United Methodist Program, which meets at noon one Sunday a month during the school year. Jennie Smith in her first few months as our Children's Ministry Director has built on that success. It is exciting that their efforts are bearing fruit!

Heather Detar and I have been leading our youth ministry for the past couple of years, which has been rebounding nicely following the pandemic. With the increased attendance on Sunday evenings and the anticipated growth of the program, the Church Council at the recommendation of the Staff Parish Relations Committee decided earlier this year to add a staff member to lead our youth ministry. One option that emerged after prayerful consideration was to have a half-time associate pastor appointed here to lead our youth ministry and to assist me in pastoral duties.

It was announced on Sunday, April 28th that Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi is appointing Rev. Amanda Mitchell as our half-time associate pastor beginning July 1st. Pastor Amanda brings a wealth of experience in youth ministry including that of being the coordinator of young people's ministry for the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2016. In this role she has planned events for youth and their leaders.

Pastor Amanda will continue in her conference position while serving as our associate pastor. She has been serving as the pastor of Thorn Creek and Emory Chapel UM churches while attending seminary. She anticipates graduating from United Theological Seminary in May and being commissioned as a provisional elder at Annual Conference in June.

I am very excited about having an associate pastor again! In the past I have benefited from collaborating in ministry. Working with a recent seminary graduate means I will be exposed to new ideas about being the church in the world today. Having an expert in youth ministry on our team will lead to a better program.

I hope that you will be praying for Pastor Amanda as she transitions from leading Thorn Creek and Emory Chapel to being our associate pastor while continuing to coordinate ministries for young people for the Annual Conference.

Blessings, Pastor Keith

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

Adult small groups 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

The Neighborhood Table May 2 & June 6 | 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.

May 6th - Men Doing Stuff

All men and boys are welcome to come to the church starting at 6:00 pm on Monday, May 6, 2024. We will spend the evening working outside (weather permitting) under the supervision of our head groundskeeper, Jody Mankamyer. Bring your favorite outside tools and have some fun in the dirt. Food and drinks will be provided. If it looks like bad weather, we will do some cleaning work inside the church.

RSVP's are not required, but are appreciated to help me have an idea how many mouths there will be to feed.

Drive Thru Dinner | May 7 & June 11 | 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.

The Bakerstown Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, May 8th, at 1:00pm** in the Library. We will be discussing the following three books: All My Secrets by Lynn Austin, The Lady's Guide to Marvels and Misadventures by Angela Bell, and How to Know a Person by David Brooks - this third one was recommended to us by Patsie Evans. We LOVE when other church members recommend good books to us!! Thank you!! Read one of them or all three!! Then join us for a fun discussion of the books. There's ALWAYS chocolate!!

All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast! | Saturday, May 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, May 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!

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

Confirmation and Youth Sunday will be celebrated on May 19th at the 11:00am Service. We will be receiving youth members. Our youth group will be leading this service.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study Then please mark your calendars for our once a month Summer Series in May through August at 10:00am. We have a wonderful lineup again of guest Bible study leaders!!

May 23rd – Katie Lowell

June 13th – Marcia Shipley

July 18th – Dawn Conroy

August 15th – Pastor Alyce Weaver Dunn

A Stitch and A Prayer Cleaning Day

On **Wednesday, May 29**, the Stitch and a Prayer group will be meeting at **10am** to clean the fabric room at the church. All are welcome.



Recognition of Graduations, Sunday, June 2nd please inform the church office of your accomplishments! Call Lora at 724-443-3184 or lstafora@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, 27th. All graduates are encouraged to come to either Worship Service.

GriefShare Spring and Summer Schedule 2024

We will continue with weekly Sessions on Wednesday evenings through May 29th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm, in the Wesley Room.

Then we will begin our Once-a-Month Summer Sessions on June 12th, July 17th, and August 14th – also at 7pm.

**New Fall Weekly Sessions will start back up on September 4, 2024.

GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the church or community. All are welcome. Just stop in.

The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference will be held at Erie Bayfront Convention Center from **Thursday, June 6th—Saturday, June 8th**. Pastor Keith and Pastor Alyce, will be attending the conference. Please remember and pray for Pastor Keith and Pastor Alyce as they participate in this year's conference sessions. The conference will conclude on Saturday, June 8th.

A Stitch and A Prayer | Join us for a fun day of learning how to do foundation paper piecing on **Tuesday, June 11 @ 9:30am**. This is a technique that teaches you how to make quilt blocks by sewing through lines on paper for accuracy. Fabric kits and pattern are provided.

Supplies: Sewing machine (one can be provided, just reserve one) Scissors or nips “Unsewing Tool!” (Seam Ripper) Rotary Cutter if you have one Add-A-Quarter Ruler if you have one (I will bring many for us to use) Questions, or to reserve a machine, call Lisa Cope 724.612.6030 **ALL are WELCOME**

2024 Vacation Bible School Celebration!

Sharing God's love through Surf and Turf



Saturday, June 22nd – 10AM until 2PM
Church Parking lot
Bring your favorite Vehicle to share



Welcome Pastor Amanda!

Amanda Mitchell grew up in Eastern Pa and came to Western Pa by way of IUP. She has a degree in Elementary Education and has served in all types of ministry settings throughout her adult life. Amanda has been the conference Coordinator of Young People's Ministry position since 2016 and will continue that part time role. Through her conference position, Amanda provides resources, connection, and leadership to local churches and their young people.

She leads the conference Youth Ministry Team who plans events like Current, Uth 4 Missions, and the Youth Caucus at Annual Conference.

She is a certified ministry coach and loves to help clergy and church leaders to develop a vision for their life and church or ministry. Amanda graduates from United Theological Seminary with an MDIV this May and plans to be commissioned this June as a provisional elder. Amanda is excited to begin this next chapter of her journey toward Elder's orders and is eager to see how God will use her gifts and skills at Bakerstown UMC as their part time Associate Pastor.

Amanda has two children, Samuel and Olivia, and a very spoiled dog, Captain.

Hello Families!

It has been wonderful getting to know all of you and your amazing children as we learn more about Jesus! As this school year wraps up, we have VBS this summer and a survey that will give us guidance in supporting you and your children this summer. Please fill out this survey: <https://tinyurl.com/BUMCSummer24>

Thank you for your warm welcome and I am so excited to continue diving into God's love with the children of Bakerstown UMC! -Ms. Jennie

Check out the amazing happenings in May and June:

JUMP: Our last JUMP of the school year will be **May 5** from 12:15-1:45pm. This is a drop off event for 3rd-5th graders. [RSVP Here](#)

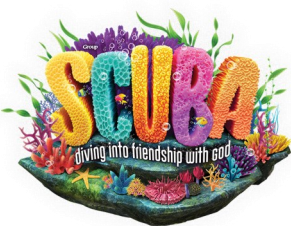
Kingdom Kids: Our last Kingdom Kids of the school year will be **May 17** from 6:00-7:30pm. This is a drop-off event for Kindergarten-2nd graders. [RSVP Here](#)

End of the Year Celebration Lunch: Please RSVP if you plan to attend our Children's Ministry end of the School Year Celebration Lunch on **May 19th**. All families and volunteers are invited to attend this pot-luck lunch. A sign-up for items to bring will be sent out by May 1st. We will celebrate our 5th graders who will be moving to Youth Group in the fall, have some games set up, and will also have some pre-VBS stations where individuals can help with creating some decorations, cut items for crafts, and sorting items that have been donated already. [RSVP for the lunch here](#)

Deadline to sign up for VBS is May 15th!!!! Any signups after that date will include a small fee.

Junior Church: May 5, 12, and 19th during the 11:00 service, following the children's moment, Kindergarten-5th graders are invited to come back to Junior Church where we will learn more about God in a smaller and fun setting. [RSVP Here](#)

Volunteers for Junior Church — We cannot make it happen without volunteers. Please consider volunteering! If you need assistance in obtaining your clearances, please let Jennie Smith know and she will help you do so. Please RSVP to volunteer [here](#)



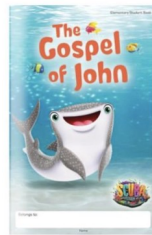
VBS 2024 SCUBA - Children ages 4 years old through entering 5th grade are invited to RSVP to Vacation Bible School! June 17th-21st from 9:00am-12:00pm. We will be learning about how God is a friend! Registration is free until

May 15th! If you have any questions reach out to Jennie Smith at jsmith@bakerstownumc.org

VBS Volunteers- We CANNOT make VBS happen without volunteers. There are many opportunities to volunteer, including ones the week before to ensure that everything is ready to welcome children to learn about Jesus and God! Volunteers who will be volunteering during VBS hours the week of VBS must have current Child Abuse and State Police Clearances on file with the church or be willing and able to obtain them. Please consider volunteering, if you have any questions reach out to Jennie Smith at jsmith@bakerstownumc.org

VBS HUB- For participant and volunteer registration, wishlists for donations, and information about obtaining clearances go to <https://linkin.bio/bumcvbs2024>

VBS Donation Sign-up- Check out this list for VBS donation items that we need to make this VBS amazing! <https://tinyurl.com/SCUBAVBSDonations>



This copy of the Gospel of John is only \$3.99 per copy! Each child who attends VBS will go home with their own Gospel of John book after learning some amazing memory verses and discovering the wonderful skill of reading God's word! They can continue their learning at home with their families! Consider donating a copy or two, so that each child can get one to take home and keep!



These Bible Buddies are \$36.49 for 10 sets, enough for 10 kids! Each Bible Buddy will be introduced throughout the week and on the bottom of the themed Bible Buddies is the memory verse for the day! Kids will get the chance to learn their memory verse and continue to play with a fun reminder of the amazing truths they learn this summer for months to come! Please consider donating to support children receiving an amazing keepsake that will help to write God's truth on their hearts and minds!

Thank you to everyone who donated, bottles, lids and shoe boxes! We now have enough and do not need any more at this time!

DIGGing Deeper |Sundays| 9:45am | Wesley Room

The book of Numbers tells us of the journey of the Israelites from Mt. Sinai through the desert to the banks of the Jordan River. It tells of two censuses and two generations. The first generation was rebellious and did not follow God's instructions resulting in wandering through the desert for 40 years. The second generation was faithful to God and was ready to enter the promised land. And Numbers gives us more insight into Moses as a mediator between God and his chosen people. You are invited to join us as we begin a survey of the book of Numbers, known in Hebrew by the title "In The Wilderness."

Women at the Well| Sundays| 9:50 - 10:45am | Library. There will be short bible study lessons and discussion questions. Come spend some time with fellow Christian women and learn about different things in the life of our Lord. All women are invited to attend. Please join us, if you have questions or thoughts please contact Kim Szelc 412-908-4723 or kszelc@zoominternet.net

Bakerstown Youth Group—Sundays

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

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

05/03 Gary Torick	05/19 Mary Ann Wilson	05/05 Wally & Sherry Swarmer
05/03 Nathan Perriello	05/21 Jim Fergus	05/13 Jim & Charlotte Episcopo
05/05 Tori Barrett	05/22 Joyce Gindlesperger	05/19 Parvez & Jamie Khambatta
05/10 Katie Lowell	05/24 Lisa Cope	05/26 Gary & Sherry Torick
05/14 Lindsey Soxman	05/27 Nancy Parris	05/27 Al & Marsha Kolbe
05/14 Skip Lancaster	05/30 Susan McGrath	05/28 Lake & Camille Barrett
05/15 Vicki Justus	05/31 Roger Cramer	
05/16 Jaison Rinker		

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

06/01Christine Negley	06/16 Pamela Reynolds	06/04 Keith Dunn & Alyce Weaver Dunn
06/02 Alice Walker	06/16 Madge Clayton	06/11 Bob & Dawn Conroy
06/04 Sharon Platt	06/18 Bob Grier	06/11 Jim & Diana Werkmeister
06/04 Rebekah Shipley	06/18 Rachel Pelusi	06/13 Ben & Julie DeVore
06/04 Paul McLeister	06/20 Linda Fergus	06/14 Richard & Debbie Lokay
06/05 Donna Artz	06/21 Ginny Campbell	06/15 John & Kathy Cleary
06/05 Olivia Shipley	06/21 Charles Hull	06/22 Robin & Evelyn Dick
06/06 Tim Shipley	06/22 Randy Burd	06/22 Doug & Becky Kyle
06/08 Karen Naeser	06/22 Philip Ladesic	06/24 John & Alice Berkner
06/09 Sam Sasada	06/23 Barbara McMaster	06/24 David & Sally Borland
06/14 Mary Pouchot	06/25 Keith Dunn	06/28 Jim & Linda Fergus
06/14 Sherry Torick	06/28 Dan Pouchot	
06/15 Jay Martin	06/29 Reed Campbell	
06/16 Connie Martin	06/30 Marge Kirkpatrick	

From the Prayer Corner—Pray for Our Community and Our Country

Thursday May 2nd is the 2024 National Day of Prayer. The theme is “**Lift up the Word – Light up the World**”. “For You are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.” - 2 Samuel 22:29-31

Our local National Day of Prayer will take place at The Hunt Club Clubhouse Flag Pole in Gibsonia from 12:00pm to 1:00pm that day. Please feel free to head over there and join in prayer with others from the community – or simply consider praying wherever you are at that day for:

#1. Pray for Unity in America. The present spiritual crisis in America is calling us to pray to come together as a nation. God is the only One who can bring unity, harmony, and oneness in America; therefore, we look only to Him in prayer.

#2. Pray for Unity in the Church. God is calling His church in America to unify upon the authority of the Bible and on Jesus Christ, the only Savior of the world. Call upon God for His Church in America to walk in unity, harmony, and oneness.

#3. Pray for Unity in Families, Workplaces, Communities, and Cities. God’s power upon us is the only source to unite our families, workplaces, communities, and cities in America. Pray for America’s families, workplaces, communities, and cities. Pray for your family, workplace, community, and city. Pray for forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and unity.

#4. Pray for Unity among all Ethnicities and Peoples in America. Since each of us is made in the image of God, we each bear His image regardless of the color of our skin or the uniqueness of our ethnicity. Through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, He has torn down the wall of division among all ethnicities and peoples. In God alone, we live in peace with one another; standing as one people against all racial and ethnic division, denouncing it as sin and not God’s will for us.

#5. Pray for the Next Great Spiritual Awakening in America. Preceding the epic movement of God on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, Jesus’ people were continually united in prayer together. Pray that His Church in America would wake up spiritually and unite visibly; and pray for the next Great Spiritual Awakening in America to occur in our generation. Call upon God to bring spiritual awakening now in America, shaping the future of America, just as the Great Spiritual Awakenings in our history have shaped our spiritual heritage as a nation in the past.

God Bless America!

From the Prayer Corner 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) or Cathy Dambach (hwdambach@consolidated.net or Heather Brown (hldrdb@hotmail.com)) and you will begin to receive the e-mail prayer requests that go out periodically.

Mission Team News....

Thanks to all who made this year's Junque Sale a huge success. If you donated Junque, sorted and priced it, made food for the workers, bought Junque, or helped clean up and dispose of Junque, you were instrumental in making this year's sale a success! A special thank you goes to Nicole Edinger for giving up an entire week of her vacation to head up the Junque Sale and to all of the Kohl's volunteers who helped throughout the week. The numbers tell the story.

Junque Sale Total: \$4816.49

Kohl's Donation: \$5100.00

Grand Total: \$9916.49

Kohl's Volunteer Hours 102

BUMC Volunteer Hours 143

Total Volunteer Hours 245



May continues to be a busy month. In addition to our regular outreach to The Neighborhood Table in Sharpsburg and Drive Thru Dinner the mission team is sponsoring a Community Fiesta for our Drive Thru friends and our congregation on **Tuesday, May 21** beginning at 5:30. Please use the link [Community Fiesta Signup](#) if you would like to volunteer to help. If you and your family are planning to come to the event (and we hope you will!) please call the church office or email bumcmteam@gmail.com to reserve your adult/child dinners.



*Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of **May/June** are taco shells, seasonings, salsa, capri sun and juice boxes.*

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.*

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Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving in many ways:

Online Giving: If you go to our website at www.bakerstownumc.org and select the donations link it will take you to a website that processes our electronic giving, called VAN-CO. Once you are there you can choose to set up a recurring donation, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

Bill pay via your bank: Many of us pay our bills via online banking. Why not set up Bakerstown UMC as one of your "bills"? Set up Bakerstown United Methodist Church 5760 William Flynn Highway Gibsonia, PA 15044 as the payee. From there you can select if it is a recurring donation or a one-time donation. The bank sends the church your donation via a paper check. This service costs nothing to you or the church and you can leave your checkbook at home and come immerse yourself in worship. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.



Thank you everyone for your Sarris Candy orders! The Sarris candy fundraiser earned \$308.17 And the box tops for education earned \$6.00. The Day School is so thankful for your participation!

	March 2024	YTD March 2024	YTD March 2023
Current Fund giving	\$38,686.46	\$116,404.54	\$94,336.49
Current Fund expense	\$40,923.63	\$104,728.51	\$108,183.77

Happy Spring! With all of this rain we received in April our lawns should look really green. Unfortunately all of the rain caused flooding in our region too. Thank you for your generous support of the church and its programs. Our missions team is able to reach out to the community with meals and cleaning (aka flood) buckets due to your support of the missions team. The church has been able to pay all bills due, including the Connectional apportionment. We continue to set aside funds for the Major Projects Fund also. Thank you! Any questions, please give me a call or see me in church.

Kay Cramer, financial secretary 724-443-2847



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
 FINANCIAL
 SUPPORT