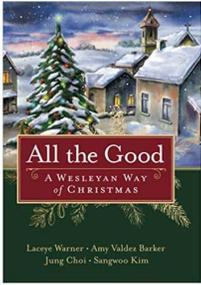




## Happenings...



**DIGging Deeper | November 28th | 9:45am | Wesley Room**  
John Wesley and Advent do not often appear in the same sentence but DIGging Deeper's Advent study puts the two together. In *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*, four Wesley-

an scholars will take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. John Wesley's emphasis upon practices of piety and mercy—or good works—drew from the larger Christian tradition. Such practices are often referred to as means of grace.

Each chapter guides participants through one of the four weeks of Advent by reflecting on biblical passages in light of an aspect of Wesleyan means of grace highlighted by illustrations and stories. Readers will look at preparing the way for God, the impact and significance of prayer, the substance of good works and caring for others, and sharing God's mission to the world.

### **The Neighborhood Table | Dec. 2nd | 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 | Dec. 7th|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](mailto:cnik-skol@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

**Lighthouse Toy Shoppe** at Bakerstown UMC— Pick a paper ornament from the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Bring back an unwrapped gift back under the tree, with your paper tag attached **by December 5th**

We will be hosting the Lighthouse Toy Shoppe on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am—1:00 pm. Your donations are greatly appreciated. It allows families in need to receive presents for Christmas for their children. \*\*\*Look for the angel tree before Thanksgiving\*\*\* **If you would like to volunteer on Saturday, please contact the church office 724-443-3184.** We are always in need of younger teenager gifts...some suggestions for them are make-up, jewelry, fishing rods and tackle boxes, hoodies (hooded sweat-shirts), nerf toys, remote control helicopters/airplanes/cars, etc. **\*\*The Lighthouse is also giving out \$25 gift cards for teenagers aged 16-18 this year, so if you would like to donate one, they'd appreciate it.\*\* Thank you so much for all of your support!**

### **No Pancake Breakfast in December, January and February**

The UMM will not be doing a Pancake Breakfast in January or February 2022.

We will assess the situation in February to see if we can return to indoor dining or if we will need to continue with Drive-Thru Breakfasts in March 2022.

Many thanks to everybody that has supported our Drive-Thru Breakfast in 2021.

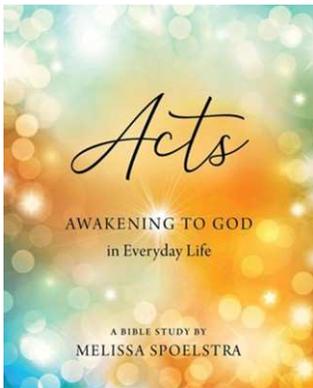
\*\*\*This is a reminder from Financial Secretary, Kay Cramer:\*\*\* Contributions for the year 2021 will be accepted until Sunday, January 2, 2022. All checks must be dated for 2021 and in Kay Cramer's hand by Sunday, January 2, 2022. If you have any questions, please give Kay a call at 724-443-2847. \*\*\*

Ladies!! **Every woman of the church is invited to attend the Women's Christmas Gathering on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Church Sanctuary.** We will have a devotional to inspire our hearts, we will sing some secular and religious carols, be entertained by a fun skit, and have plenty of time to socialize.

As in past years, we will be supporting a local mission. This year the Deer Lakes Backpack Initiative to Fight Hunger has been chosen to receive our donations. You may bring a food item or a monetary contribution (make checks payable to D L Backpack Initiative or bring a cash donation). Some food items that can be best used are:

fruit cups, fruit juice boxes, or packages of dried fruit,  
oatmeal packets, or individual boxes of cereal,  
peanut butter and/or crackers  
soup cups – tomato, chicken noodle, and vegetable,  
granola bars, cereal bars, or breakfast bars,  
single serving jello, pudding, or applesauce packs,  
cans of ravioli or spaghetti's and/or boxes of macaroni and cheese,  
microwave popcorn, or individual packages of Goldfish or pretzels.

Please make plans to come and join your friends (maybe even make a new friend) as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord and Savior.



Ladies, looking ahead to after the holidays - **Mark Your Calendars for a new Women's Bible Study beginning at 9:00am Thursday Morning, January 6<sup>th</sup> in New Fellowship Hall - *Acts: Awakening to God in Our Everyday Lives*,** a six-week study of the Book of Acts by Melissa Spoelstra. Whether it's because of distractions, busyness, or a case of the blahs, we can experience a drift toward indifference in our spiritual lives. We will journey with the first followers of Jesus and witness the birth and growth of the early church through spiritual awakening to the power of God's Spirit, message, freedom, grace, mission, and direction. From their experiences we will learn how to attune our own spiritual hearts to experience God's presence, hear God's voice, and see God at work all around. This study offers a fresh encounter with God to prepare us to: Face our daily battles - Be able to discern the messages of our culture - Be ready to share God's love with others always. Please come and join us. Workbooks are \$10.00.



I will be out of the office December 23th - January 2nd I will return to the office on Monday, January 3rd. **If you would like anything in the January newsletter, please have it to me by December 16th.**

Bulletin articles for  
December 19th & 26th are due  
Monday, December 13th.

Thank you. Lora Stafura ~ Office Administrator

## From the Prayer Corner – A Christmas Prayer

Most of the time when I pray I say my own words, but I have found that slowly reciting what others have written often opens my eyes to see things in new ways. Of all the prayers I've pondered, the sweetest might be this simple prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson. In light of all the ugliness in the world today, it seems especially timely in its call to peace, love, and deliverance from evil. May these words bring light to your Christmas season and joy to your heart. Please take a minute or two to join in praying this very special Christmas prayer. These beautiful words were written by a long-departed witness for Christ, acclaimed author Robert Louis Stevenson. His words live on as a testimony of gratefulness, joy, and hope found in Jesus... at Christmas time and all year 'round.

### A Christmas Prayer

By Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

*Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be Thy children,  
and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake.  
Amen.*

**Join the Email Prayer Team!!!! It's easy. Here's how:**

Contact Lora Stafura [lstafura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lstafura@bakerstownumc.org), or Cathy Dambach [hwdambach@consolidated.net](mailto:hwdambach@consolidated.net), or Heather Brown [hldab@hotmail.com](mailto:hldab@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.....

The fall season has been a busy one for the mission team. We have continued to serve a monthly meal at The Neighborhood Table in Sharpsburg, we have delivered meals to several of our own church members, and this month we will celebrate one year of continuously serving our community through the Drive Thru Dinners. We have been privileged to see God doing some very exciting things this year!

Advent candle holders and devotional books were distributed at the November Drive Thru Dinner so that folks would have them for the beginning of Advent. Thanks to all who made that possible! The devotional books will be available to the congregation and will also be distributed at the December meal in Sharpsburg. The Women’s Bible Study has generously filled “Blessing Bags” for the December DTD. Our faithful bakers have been busy making cookies to be given out as well. All of this is in addition to the many people who plan, shop, prepare, cleanup, and deliver or distribute the meals and pray with the recipients. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Finally, this month the mission team will be discussing the disbursement of year-end gifts to other ministries. While we have focused on ministering close to home this year, there are others who minister in places far away. We are thankful to be able to contribute to work around the world through our prayers and our financial support. We have been blessed so that we can be a blessing to others!



*Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for the month of December: boxed potatoes (any variety)*

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to everyone who donated items for this Childrens Ministry including those who gave money for transportation costs or purchase of The Gratest Journey booklets used to teach children about Jesus Christ and salvation. I also send special thanks to those who helped pack the shoeboxes Wednesday, November 10th.

This ministry DOES change lives, evidenced by reports sent from Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan’s Purse. No doubt, there are any more examples than those we receive here in the states.

In a few weeks we will know, through a tracking device, the country where children received our gifts given in love in the name of Jesus. Stay tuned! Verna Feather

	October 2021	YTD October 2021	YTD October 2021
Donations:	\$44,597.98	\$355,243.44	\$404,317.37
Expenses:	\$30,558.12	\$357,630.31	\$428,239.54

 We are moving into our Thanksgiving season, and we are so thankful to you, our church members. Thank you for generously giving so our programs can resume. All of our bills have been paid in full, including connectional support, payroll, contribution to trustees, etc. We were also able to transfer some money into our Major Projects savings in October. As always, give me a call if you have a question. Kay Cramer, Financial Secretary 724-443-2847

Bakerstown United Methodist Church  
5760 William Flynn Highway  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
724-443-3184  
[www.bakerstownumc.org](http://www.bakerstownumc.org)



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

## Staff:

Rev. Keith Dunn  
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[kdunn@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:kdunn@bakerstownumc.org)

Rev. Matthew Scott  
Associate Pastor  
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Joyce Gindlesperger  
Director of Music  
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Lora Stafura  
Office Administrator  
[lstafura@bakerstownumc.org](mailto:lstafura@bakerstownumc.org)



### **Family Service—4:30 pm**

This Praise and Worship service is particularly designed for families with children. There is a celebration of Christ's birth in a relaxed atmosphere appreciating the child in all of us as we welcome the birth of the child of heaven.

### **Carols & Candlelight—7:30pm & 9:30pm**

This services is a celebration of Christ's birth with joyful singing of carols and the beauty of candlelight. Enjoy the surrounding beauty and the warmth of God's love during this special time.

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/06 Phil Swisher  
12/08 Katie Mawhinney  
12/09 Owen Cramer  
12/09 Kim Zynn  
12/09 Ryan Cosgrove  
12/09 Paul Macik  
12/10 Pam Lunn  
12/10 Sheria Mason  
12/13 Julien Marentay  
12/17 Jeff Reynolds  
12/17 Annie Haselrig  
12/17 Matthew Sarver

12/17 Todd Mankamyer  
12/19 Jonathan Ometz  
12/24 Troy Lunn  
12/24 Jamie Khambatta  
12/26 Tracey Rossi  
12/28 Phyllis Brown  
12/30 Loretta Irwin  
12/30 Alyce Weaver Dunn  
12/31 Jerry Miller

12/11/2009 Chris & Tish Miller  
12/27/1986 Tim & Marcia Shipley  
12/27/1985 Randy & Maura Burd