

The Steeple

February-March 2026

Dear Friends

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Last year during Lent many of us participated in a 28-day Dynamite Prayer experiment. We invited God's resurrection power into our lives and the life of our church. We asked God to break through our regular routines, our regular kind of thoughts, words, deeds and actions. We focused on what God was trying to say to us in new ways. Many of us experienced breakthroughs in our lives and the lives of our family members because of this experiment.

This year I am asking us to participate in a 28-day experiment during the month of February using the Dynamite Prayer book by Rosario Picardo and Sue Nilson Kibbey. I have heard that many people gain further insights into the life of prayer and experiencing God's resurrection power in their lives when they use the book a second time. That is why I plan to do it again and hope you will join me. If you were unable to participate last year and would like to do so this time, we will have details on how to purchase the book, possibly at a discount as soon as we get them.

I am looking forward to this second time with the Dynamite Prayer book and experiment for several reasons. There are 28 days in February which makes it a natural fit for a short month. Lent begins on February 18, which means we will have a good start leading up to this time of meaningful spiritual growth. I also hope to have more intentional conversation around the prayer experiment this time around leading to strengthening our connection in Christ.

You may have noticed the breakthrough prayer written by our bishop in our weekly bulletin. I hope you will continue using that along with using the book this February. All of this will lead to participation in "Dream Tables," a spiritually guided, discernment process for congregations to discover where God is leading them next in ministry.

I believe that it is time for us to begin discerning where we are heading in ministry together as a church. The "Dream Tables" approach will help us see where God is leading us now and provide tools for us to do so in the future. We will begin with a small team participating in four online 90-minute sessions led by Sue Nilson Kibbey and a one-to-one coaching session for our church. I am still learning more about this process, which will begin in early Spring.

I always look forward to Lent with great anticipation of what God will do in our lives. I hope that you will join me by participating in the 28-day Dynamite Prayer experiment, praying the breakthrough prayer and worshipping with us on Ash Wednesday, February 18th at 7:30 PM.

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

February Happenings....

DIGGInG Deeper is currently studying the book "The Bible With and Without Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt, and Marc Zvi Brettler, a Jewish professor of Judaic Studies at Duke University, discusses 6 stories in the Bible where Jews and Christians read those stories differently. It begins with the second verse of chapter 1 of Genesis. What was it that blew across the waters? In the Hebrew Bible the word ru'ach can be translated as wind, breath or spirit. Jews interpret this as wind and do not see this as a reference to the Holy Spirit but for Christians this is the first time the "Spirit of God" or Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Bible. The last session studies the passage "My God. My God. Why have You forsaken me?" We will study this passage the last Sunday before Lent and it makes a fitting introduction to our Lenten study which is described in another portion of this newsletter.

The Return of the Paper Football Tournament |Feb. 2 | Kick Off at 7:00pm

Do you remember 2018? Hidden in the footnotes of history for that year is the fact that that was the last year that the Men's Paper Football tournament was held. It is well past time to dust off the table tops and resume some fierce competition to see which BUMC man wasted the most time honing his paper football skills in study halls! This will be the "Men Doing Stuff" event for February. Plan on bringing a game time snack to share with the group. Drinks will be provided. See you there...if you dare!

The Neighborhood Table | Feb. 5 | 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 | Feb. 10 |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 another questions, please contact Carol Skolnik at cnikskol@gmail.com.

The Bakerstown Book Club |Wed., Feb. 11th | 1:00pm | Library

Bring along a book you've read and enjoyed recently – and join us for a fun discussion of the books. Hope to see you there! There's ALWAYS chocolate!!

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study |February 12th | 9:00am |Fellowship Hall - Luke in the Land

by Kristi McLellan. The four written Gospels describe Jesus's time on earth: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Land-the place Jesus walked and taught during His earthly

ministry-is often referred to as the 'fifth Gospel'. The land speaks in its own way and reveals deeper understanding to the life of Christ.

Through seven sessions revealing snapshots mostly from the Gospel of Luke, join Kristi McLellan to explore the fifth Gospel together. Challenge the way you read the accounts of Jesus in video teaching sessions that take you to locations in Israel like Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, and the road to Emmaus, to see where the stories of the Bible actually took place. See how Jesus brought true hope to the world by following His footsteps in the Holy Land, and gain a deeper understanding of the stories of Jesus's life from a first-century point of view. Workbooks are \$20.00.

GriefShare's next session will be Wednesday, February 11th – 7pm to 8:30pm **New Session Series begins again weekly March 4th.

All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast! |Saturday, Feb. 21 | 8:00-11:00am | Fellowship Hall

\$8.00 for Adults, \$4.00 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.

A Stitch and a Prayer |Saturday, Feb. 21 |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.

Lent with DIGGInG Deeper | Sunday | 9:45am | Wesley Room | Feb. 22

Do you remember those 3 hour Good Friday services where the pastors in the local ministerial association would speak on the seven last words of Jesus from the cross? That memory is what prompted our choice for a Lenten study, the book "Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross" by Rev. Susan Robb. Each Sunday during Lent we will be looking at one or more of the words. It's from the cross that Jesus speaks and shows his deepest love for us. It's from the cross that Jesus' full humanity draws us closest to him. It's from the cross, as Jesus breathes his last breath and speaks his last words, that his deep trust in the Father and his divine glory are revealed. Those who listen to Jesus' last words from the cross will discover what he most wants them (the world) to hear and will experience an intimate and divine awe only available to those who are willing to draw near his cross.

February Cont...

Confirmation Classes—February 22nd

All eighth-grade students and older youth interested in joining the church are eligible to participate in this class. Sessions will be held at 9:45am in the Senior Pastor's study every Sunday except Mother's Day & Easter. Confirmation will be received into church membership on May 17th.

I am looking forward to this year's class and the time of growing in faith together. I am always blessed by the opportunity to get to know our youth. I am also willing to provide sessions via Zoom for students who are sick or travelling. This worked quite well the past couple of years. If you have questions or would like to know more, please feel free to contact Pastor Keith.

Day School Sarris Candy Sale!!!

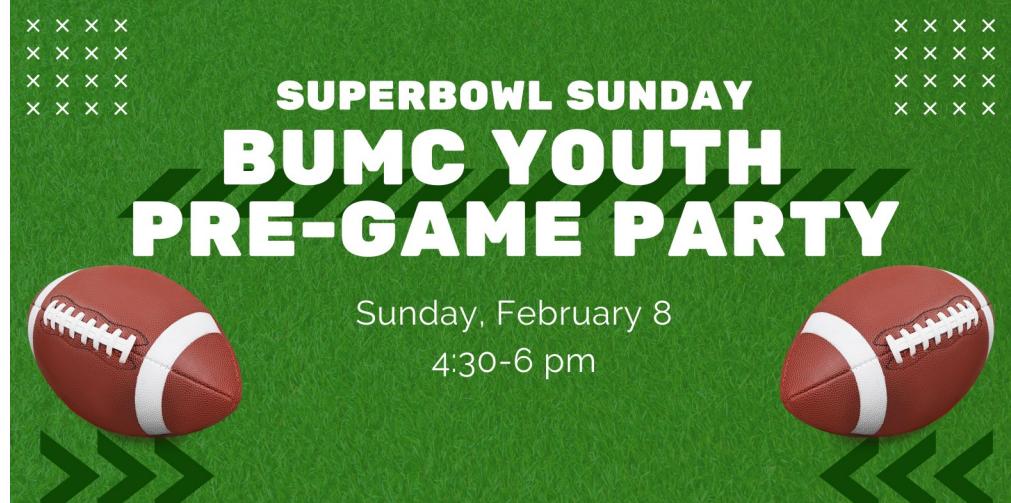
If you plan on buying Sarris for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and/or Easter, please consider buying with this link to support the Bakerstown United Methodist Day School. Shipping is FREE and it will be delivered right to your door (there is a \$7 packaging & handling fee applied by Sarris, though). It's a pretty yummy deal! You can order here: [Dayschool Sarris Candy](#) and use the organization name Bakerstown United Methodist Day School and Group Id 10-3713. Thank you for your support!



Food Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection for Pantry the month of February—Shelf Stable Needs Milk, Hot Chocolate, Coffee (Reg. and Decaf), K-cups

Youth News....

February: Even Still—A series on hurt and pain from Jeremiah and Lamentations. In this series, students will learn that even still, God's promises are true, God is good, God is with us, and God gives us hope no matter what we're going through.



March: In Repair- A series from the New Testament on Justice. The world feels broken, but it's not beyond repair for God. In this series, students will learn how Jesus restores our relationship with God, helps us fix our relationships with others, and shows us how to bring healing to the world.

Easter Series (last 2 weeks of March): More Life A series using the Gospels and Epistles. The resurrection brought more than just one day of celebration—it brings new life every day. In this series, students will learn to trust God in hard times and believe that Jesus gives us more life, now and always.

March News...



Don't forget to spring forward
and turn your clocks ahead
1 hour on **March 8th**

GriefShare Outreach Ministry – NEW weekly meetings begin again on Wednesday evenings, beginning **March 4th** through **May 27th** from 7:00pm till 8:30pm in the Wesley Room.

GriefShare is a special support group designed to offer you help and encouragement after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts, and we want to help. Our GriefShare program is co-led by Rev. Bill Dambach, Marcia Shipley, Tim McDermott, Judy Moore, and Marge Kirkpatrick.

The curriculum is Christ-centered and biblical and the weekly videos feature some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery. Please feel free to call the church office at 724-443-3184 if you have any questions or would like more information about GriefShare. GriefShare is a drop-in anytime group and open to anyone in the church or community. All are welcome.

The Neighborhood Table | Mar. 5 | Fellowship Hall
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 **Food Lighthouse Food Pantry Collection Pantry for the month of March—Mac & Needs cheese, instant potatoes, cans of tun, salmon and chicken.**

DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2026/2027

We still have some openings for our 2 year old classes, 3 year old classes, 4 year old classes.

You can find the registration form at www.bakerstownumc.org for you to complete and return with one month's payment along with the \$50.00 registration fee and the \$25.00 enrichment fee. Once received, you will get an email confirmation. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Chapman at 724-272-6032 or at director@bakerstownumc.org. 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.

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

Children's Ministry News....



Junior Church

Junior Church is held every week during the 11:00 AM service for kids in PreK through 5th grade.

This spring, our focus will be on the New Testament with a specific look at the amazing emotions that God gives us and how we see those in the Bible.

No sign-ups are needed ahead of time—just bring your kids, and they will be dismissed after the Children's Message.

February Children's Ministry Event

February's Children's Ministry Event will take place on Sunday, February 15th from 12:15-1:45pm. Lunch will be provided, and this is a drop-off event, but volunteers are always welcome. To RSVP for your child or volunteer to help, please use this link: [RSVP](#)

****Due to the upcoming Easter Holiday and Journey to the Cross, there will not be a Children's Ministry Event outside of Junior Church in March.****

Journey to the Cross | Sat., March 14th | 1-3pm, BUMC Children's Ministry will hold an event called Journey To The Cross. All ages are welcome!

Join BUMC Children's Ministry to experience the events of Holy Week, in an interactive self-guided family tour. This is for ALL AGES.

The event will start in New Fellowship Hall.

Please RSVP using this [link](#) or emailing

jsmith@bakerstounumc.org. This will help us ensure we have enough supplies.

****If you would like to help with set-up/tear down for Journey to the Cross, please email jsmith@bakerstounumc.org.****



Vacation Bible School Registration is open!

June 22nd-26th from 9:00am-12:00pm!

We will journey from Creation through Revelation and explore the true nature of God at Rainforest Falls .

To register for your child, please use the link here: [VBS Registration](#)

Want to help with VBS? If you would like to volunteer for VBS, please register using the link here: [Volunteer RSVP](#)

Paper volunteer registration forms will be available at the Children's Ministry volunteer table in the Narthex.

How to Get Involved

Children's ministry can't happen without your help! We have great opportunities to serve both directly with kids and behind the scenes.



Join the Hearts & Hands Team

Our February team meeting is on Tuesday, February 10th beginning at 6:00 PM.

- Our March team meeting is on Tuesday, March 10th beginning at 6:00 PM.

Food will be provided!

The more the merrier! If we have finished prep for Junior Church and upcoming Children's Ministry Events, we will begin some prep work for stations for VBS!

Volunteer for Junior Church

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNIOR CHURCH!

Signups will be available on paper in the Narthex, and a digital signup will be emailed to the congregation.

Important Clearance Notice: In order to volunteer, the church will need to have copies of your clearances. If you are unsure if we have your clearances, please reach out and we will let you know.

Contact Information

If you are interested in volunteering or coming to the Hearts and Hands team meeting, please email Jennie at jsmith@bakerstounumc.org.

Donation Request: VBS Prize Table!

As we are looking forward to Vacation Bible School (VBS) this coming summer, we need your help!

Last year, we had a prize table that was a major hit! Children who brought offering money for the mission team were given tickets for a daily prize drawing. If you happen to see some small prizes while out and about and would like to donate to our prize table, please pick them up! Examples of great items are:

Sensory toys

Small stuffed animals

Small containers of slime or putty

Other small novelty items

You can place them in the bin outside of Jennie's office that is marked VBS prize table donations. If you'd prefer to purchase something online, linked [here](#) is our Amazon wishlist.

VBS materials and other donation links will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Thank you so much for your support!

From the Prayer Corner – A Prayer for Lent

Sometimes we don't really acknowledge this 40-day season of Lent, much less appreciate it. (*No shame if that's you, too!*) But we have an opportunity each year to come to see the beauty and richness that come from intentionality in our faith. We might first think that Lent is just about giving up junk food or vowing yet again to create healthy habits in our lives, but can we discover a much deeper and more powerful purpose behind the weeks leading up to Easter? And maybe see if the Lord might be stirring in our own hearts as this Lenten season begins? Perhaps this prayer will echo prayers on our hearts, and perhaps this season will be one we come to appreciate in new ways, too.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of this season. Thank You for knowing our hearts and our need for rhythms in our lives, and for drawing us into a deeper communion with You throughout these coming 40 days. May these weeks leading up to the tragedy of Good Friday and the glory of Resurrection Sunday remind us of who You are, how You love us, how much You want to spend time with us, and who You have created us to be as Your followers.

May we walk through this season intentionally, removing distractions that take our gaze away from Your glory. May we quiet the noise that pulls us from adoration of You and puts our attention on lesser things. May we simplify where we have been stressed, may we surrender what has been burdensome, may we repent of what has been sinful.

May we see Your goodness and Your glory in new ways throughout this season of Lent. May we know the depths of Your love for us more fully. May we feel the pain You endured for our sake, Jesus, and may we rejoice that You were victorious and conquered every bit of evil when you rose to life again.

Draw us closer to Your heart, that we might know You better and understand You more completely. We pray that we would not only give things up for Lent, but that we would give You glory through Lent, Lord. May our actions reflect our hearts, and may we worship You through all that we say and do throughout the weeks to come. Jesus, the journey You took to the cross was full of betrayal, grief, torture, and darkness, yet Your love for us, Your people, propelled You onward. Help us to comprehend just how powerful that love is, that You would suffer such a cruel death to make a way for us to be with You in glory forever. What a gift, Jesus. What a gift. May our prayers and our praise never cease in this season. May our worship be unending. May our love for You find new depths. May this season bring new hope and new healing. May we journey toward the cross prayerfully and purposefully, even through our pain, our doubt, our questions, and our searching. May we find resurrection life springing up from this old dusty ground, and may we be surprised by joy in all of it. May Easter be a day of complete celebration as we rejoice in our risen Savior and praise our gracious Father. Thank You! Amen!

Mission Team News....

As we begin our sixth year of Drive Thru Dinner, the mission team would like to thank the congregation for their support. Your financial support, as well as your prayers, time and talents have enabled the mission team to prepare well over 4,000 meals in 2025, help fund two volunteers in mission, send a team of workers to Costa Rica, financially support two missionaries and a crisis pregnancy center, assemble 8 cleaning buckets for the Mission Barn, and donate countless pounds of shelf-stable food to The Lighthouse. These numbers in and of themselves are not as important as the lives that have been touched by your generosity. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve Christ by loving our neighbors near and far.

Looking forward, we foresee that demand resulting from food insecurity in our area will continue to be high. Since we no longer are able to receive donations from Kohl's Cares, we are solely dependent on the congregation for funding throughout most of the year. The only fund raiser currently planned is the annual ***Junque Sale, scheduled for Saturday, April 25***. It's not too early to start your spring cleaning and setting aside clean sellable items for the Junque Sale!

Also on tap for the summer of 2026 is a ***Sleep in Your Own Bed Mission Trip***. The team is busy putting together a variety of local hands-on mission opportunities for this summer. Our idea is that folks can choose to volunteer their time in a way that will suit their interests and schedule. Stay tuned for more details!

February & March Birthday's & Anniversaries

02/01 Frank Ferguson	02/22 Heather Brown	03/02 Jennie Smith	03/18 Tyler Szelc
02/01 Amanda Mitchell	02/24 Theodore Brumberg	03/03 Becky Kyle	03/18 Marlene Haller
02/04 Jack Brown	02/26 Kaylea Detar	03/03 Chase Rinker	03/19 Joy Lancaster
02/06 Becky Olson	02/26 Josephine Walker	03/04 Kurt Olson	03/24 Paul Edinger
02/06 Chad Edwards	02/26 Erin Lunn	03/05 Dorothy Cramer	03/25 Ellen Kelley
02/07 Alex Shipley	02/26 Thomas Reynolds	03/05 Clara Sasada	03/26 Sally Borland
02/08 Megan Werkmeister	02/27 Elsie Strader	03/06 Jim Werkmeister	03/28 Paula Shepherd
02/08 Jim Episcopo		03/07 Lillian Schmidt	03/29 Ross Shipley
02/10 Jocelyn Detar		03/08 Penny Fischetti	03/29 Parker Streiff
02/11 Brian Szelc		03/09 Chuck Koval	03/31 Jim Semler
02/16 Justin Schmidt		03/14 Bryce Cramer	
02/17 Allen Perriello		03/14 Kathy Cleary	
02/17 Caleb McLish		03/16 Jamie McLish	
02/17 Colin McLish		03/17 Alice Berkner	
02/18 Matthew Lancaster		03/17 Dean Kelley	
02/19 Jim Kelvington		03/18 Sam Gilligan	
		03/18 Marie Edinger	
02/02 Reid & Beth Joyce		03/18 Kurt & Leslie Olson	
02/06 Mike & Miriam Perriello			

Note of Appreciation

On behalf of The Lighthouse Foundation and the Toy Shoppe Committee, we want to say **THANK YOU!** On December 13th, we were able to provide over 270 families with almost 600 children with presents for Christmas morning. Those families could choose from the wide selection of toys, gift cards, and wrapping options for presents because of your support; this would not be possible without YOU! The Lighthouse Foundation honestly appreciates your support. Thank you for bringing Christmas Joy to families in our area!

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
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Joyce Gindlesperger
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Lora Stafura
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Jennie Smith
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Tracy Hefner
Worship Leader
thefner@bakerstownuc.org



Financial Update

November 2025 December 2025 YTD Dec 2025 YTD Dec 2024

Current fund giving	\$46,826.53	\$53,155.44	\$468,638.30	\$451,560.27
Current fund expenses	\$33,006.83	\$44,458.40	\$489,680.29	\$450,438.54

Hello Church Family.

Thank you for supporting your church. In these uncertain times with rising costs everywhere you gave to your church in December showing an increase in giving. Unfortunately our expenses still exceeded our income at the end of 2025. Thankfully we had a reserve fund we could withdraw from in October in the amount of \$15,000.00. The trustees have been fully funded for the year 2025. They have so many projects around the church that need funded. The Major project fund was not given any funds since July due to our cash flow problem. If you have any questions, please let me know. See you in church! Kay Cramer, Financial Secretary 724-443-2847