

# BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE CARILLON

February 2019

VOLUME 20 • NUMBER 2

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The Carillon is a monthly publication available in print, online and e-mail editions. To sign up, visit our website or contact the church office. [bakermemorialchurch.org](http://bakermemorialchurch.org)

Deadline for The Carillon items is the 20th of the month



## PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

### A Call to Prayer

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV)*

February 23-26, 2019 will be important days for the United Methodist Church. A special session of General Conference (our highest legislative body which typically meets only once every four years) will be convened in Saint Louis. The 864 delegates from around the world will work to determine what direction the church should take in its long debate over homosexuality. The Book of Discipline, our book of common policy for all United Methodists, currently indicates in ¶304.3 that *“The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.”* It also does not allow United Methodist clergy to officiate same sex unions or United Methodist churches to host same sex unions in church buildings.

Although these have been long standing statements in the **Book of Discipline**, they have also been a long standing source of debate and disagreement. Over the decades the debate has become so heated that it presents an immediate threat to our unity. There have been conversations about splitting the United Methodist Church into multiple denominations based on our differing understandings of God's perspective on human sexuality. This is deeply problematic, because unity is one of our core understandings of what it means to be effective as Christians. The preamble to our constitution says, *“The church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world, and its very dividedness is a hindrance to its mission in that world.”*

The delegates have 78 petitions which group into five different legislative alternatives on how to proceed. They provide a spectrum of possibilities. One edge is to take the

*Continued on page 2.*



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## PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

*Continued from page 1.*

statements about homosexuality completely out of the **Book of Discipline** so that it is no longer a consideration in ordination or weddings. The other edge is to reinforce the current policy by more fully defining the disciplinary actions to be taken when clergy or congregations do not abide by the policy, while also providing a way for congregations that do not agree with the policy to exit the denomination. In between are two options that seek to preserve unity by providing individual congregations, clergy and annual conferences more leeway in setting policy on ordination and weddings.

We are in an uncomfortable place. Yet, according to Paul's letter to the Philippians, anxiety is not the answer. We are to pray. This is not a time to be fearful, nor is it a time to lobby God for our preferred resolution. It is time to be intentional in asking God to show us the way to move forward, while being confident that God's direction will be discerned.

As United Methodists we need to surround this time with prayer. Specifically, please pray for all of the delegates from our Annual Conference by name. They are, Lonnie Chafin, Alka Lyall, Irma Clark, Greg Gross, Elisa Gatz,

and Chris Pierson. Also please pray for the alternates who will be called on if one of these persons is unable to serve: John Ryder, Carol Hill, Rita Smith, Luis Reyes, Nancy Pendergrass, and David Lagos-Fonseca.

As the conference begins please pray for the work of each day. Each day will begin with worship, however each day also has its own theme.

- Saturday, February 23: Prayer and worship
- Sunday, February 24: Discerning which plan to focus on as the main way forward.
- Monday, February 25: Amending, editing, and voting on the petitions before the Conference.
- Tuesday, February 26: Completing the voting process, and determining how to proceed with Annual Conferences and General Conference 2020.

If you would like to keep up to date with the news of the United Methodist Church, you can find updates at [www.umnews.org](http://www.umnews.org). Do not worry, the way before us will become clear in God's time. Please pray with me,

*Lord, may the direction you envision for us become clear, for we desire to be your faithful followers seeking to invite the world into discipleship. Guide us so that our faithful wrestling with this difficult issue may bring glory and honor to your name. Amen.*

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Mary



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## OPENING NEW DOORS

### Capital Campaign Update

The Opening New Doors Capital Campaign is continuing to move forward. As of January 30, we have received pledges totaling over **\$1,295,900**. We have visited or contacted 288 households so far! If you have not been contacted yet or have a question, please email [capcam@bakermemorialchurch.org](mailto:capcam@bakermemorialchurch.org) or call the church office.

### This Month's Testimonial Quote:

*"We would like to invite you to take a pro-active approach in scheduling your home visit or wherever you feel comfortable. There are a number of members of this church currently dedicating their free time to get to know their fellow members better and discuss the church's vision for the future. The capital campaign team developed a wonderful brochure that answers many questions, but you can't beat having someone right there with you to guide you through the process. For me, I've completed one of my scheduled home visits as part of the team, and honestly it felt great just to meet fellow members that I didn't know up until that moment. The better connected we are to each other, the more focused we can be in serving God." —Pete Helland*

# Children & Family Ministries

## TRY WWGS THIS MONTH

**W**hen I was growing up, we would wear our colorful WWJD bracelets. If you aren't familiar with that term, it stands for What Would Jesus Do. You wore your bracelets or shirts to help guide you through tough decisions or choices. I feel in my life it did help because the bracelet was a constant reminder that He is with you always. For example, would Jesus skip His nightly prayers after a long day of work after helping others? Would Jesus miss a Bible study class to go to a professional sporting team event like the Black Hawks or Bulls?

It is February, which means Valentine's Day. Yes, it is more of a commercialized holiday. However, this is a perfect time to show your neighbors, strangers, and family God's love through you. Have you figured out what WWGS means? It's an acronym for What Would God Say. Challenge yourself, your family, or friends this month to think WWGS before you act on real-life situations.

For instance, what would God say after a minor car accident from black ice? What would God say to someone holding a sign on the side of the road who needs help? What would God say to a child who just took red paint to your box springs of your bedding? That one happened to me. I think she got that idea after watching the Curious George movie.

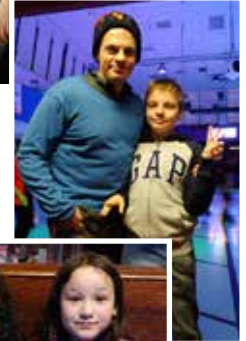
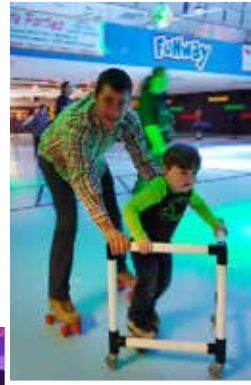
Try WWGS or WWJD this month. If it helps, wear a bracelet. Pause in a prayer before you act out your real life situations. We are all very busy in life, but we need to keep love as the main thing. Remember what it says in 1 John 4:19 Deep Blue Kids Bible *We love because God first loved us.* Let's practice and pattern our lives from God's word from 1 Corinthians 13:4-6. Continue to pray and put love

in your daily real life situations. Have a family meeting to role play how love would change situations at school or home.



**THIS MONTH'S FAMILY BIBLE VERSE:** *Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth.*

—1 Corinthians 13:4-6 Deep Blue Kid's Bible



## FAMILY SKATE DATE

Thank you for those who attended our Family Skate Date event at Funway on January 20. We had 44 friends and family of all ages who came out in the cold weather. We were blessed to have the roads clear from the snow plows. It was great to see the brave little ones try it out for the first time. It might have taken a few extra rounds around the rink, but success and confidence was achieved. A few even won recognition for their speed and teamwork to out-skate other competitors. It was amazing to see our church family cheer Baker participants through their speed races.

Blessings and Joy,  
*Shelly Stienbarger*  
Director, Children & Family Ministry

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **February Curriculum** | The Four Friends | Mark 2:1-12 at 9am

## THANK YOU'S!

- **January Teachers:** Chrissy Farley, Gina Armstrong, Jayne Scales & Pete Holmes
- **January Shepherds:** Courtney Fredrickson & Toni Peck
- **Nursery:** Catherine Rosenquist, Danni Killian & Rob Hale
- **Praise & Worship:** Melissa Arndt & Brooke Bayless
- **Special Thank You:** Linda McCullagh

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# Youth Ministry

## PRESSURE, PRESSURE, PAUSE

One of the really big events on the horizon is the Work Trip (July 7-13). Thank you to the parents and teens who have already confirmed their attendance at our February 10, informational meeting at 10:05am in the youth center. There, you can expect to get many of the details about what the work trip is, why we do it, where it will be this year and much more. Also, in preparation for the trip, BakerYouth now runs the Annual Baker Memorial Rummage Sale. This is a great way to make a good deal of money in a short time, make an impact in local lives and get to know the team that will go on the trip. The Rummage Sale is April 7-13 this year.

It recently occurred to me, as it does on occasion, how much pressure our young people are under. The things we adults take for granted and look back on with fondness or a chuckle can feel like make or break for them. Another month, another college visit for young people preparing to go off to college. Another final exam, another musical performance, another tournament, another sleepless night. The stakes seem extremely high, fortunately we're entering Lenten season and our families will hear the call to reassess



our priorities, cast off the things that ensnare and turn our eyes back to the story of Christ.

There will be a great number of Immerse groups reading scriptures and discussing faith. I encourage you to get involved in one with your teen(s). We are also going to talk through the capital campaign with them. Dan Starr has written some great pieces that give context and

allow our young people to be part of the next steps of our church. These are just a few things we are doing to engage, awaken and renew faith in our teens.

Continue to pray with us and for us as confirmation resumes this week. We have seven confirmands progressing in their faith and it is exciting to see!

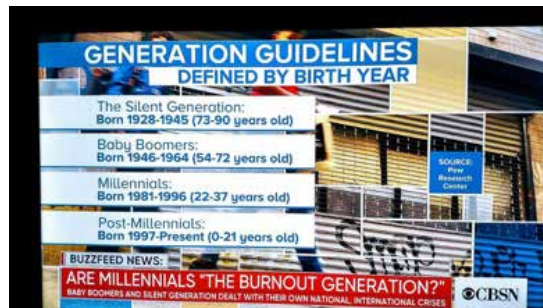
Blessings,  
*Carl King*  
Director of Youth Ministry

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# Young Adult Ministry

This one is for the folks who navigated dial-up internet, fell in love with Nokia 5110 cell phones, and remember televisions being wheeled into their school classrooms. The days you went to computer lab and got to play Oregon Trail in school were some of the best days and Carmen Sandiego was a hero. Back then, Generation X was celebrated and viewed as the hope and future, but things have changed.

I have grappled with how to incorporate everyone into our young adult activities and it seems Generation X is the missing generation, just like in the image above. No, seriously, look at the image. A whole fifteen years are missing. That should never be your experience when it comes to church so let me say for the record - Millennials, Post-Millennials and Generation X are welcome to young adult functions. This is your official invitation.



A few times, I've heard through others that a Gen X member did not know whether they were able to attend a function. That is an indication our communication is not going as well as we wish, so if there is any program you hear or read about at Baker Memorial for young adults and you're Gen X, come on and join

in the festivities. Yes, the young adult committee is working on specific events that target and serve very recent high school graduates. Those events will use particular language like, "college-aged." Everything else is open to you.

You are loved. You are valued. We look forward to seeing you at an event real soon!

Sincerely,  
*Carl King*  
Director of Young Adult Ministry

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## Valentine Bake Sale

Buy a sweet treat for your Valentine at the UMW Bake Sale, Sunday, February 10 during fellowship in Baker Hall. Donations will be used to support women, children and youth. Buy a sweet for your sweetie!

## Caring Ministry Needs

The Caring Ministry is looking for people to provide rides for church and community members who need to get to and from medical appointments, physical therapy, work, etc. There is also a need for more volunteers for the card writing ministry and for monetary donations for essentials like clothing, Wednesday night meals for the day guests and Uber rides for Day Guests to get to appointments and shelters. If you are interested in any of these opportunities or have questions, please contact Judy at jschlarb@bakermemorialchurch.org or 630-584-6680.

## Wednesday Night Suppers This Month

- **February 6** | Roasted Chicken, Winter Veggies, Green Bean Almondine, Salad & Corn Potato Bacon Soup
- **February 13** | Phoebe Circle Fundraiser | Beef Stew, Salads & Valentine Desserts
- **February 20** | Creamy Herb Pork Chops, Diced Potato, Glazed Carrots, Salad, Squash Bisque & Garlic Bread

## United Methodist Men's Breakfast

The UMM Men's Breakfast will meet on Sunday, February 17 at 7:30am. Chuck Freiberger will be the featured speaker.

## United Methodist Women Happenings

- **UMW Leadership Team** please plan to meet for our monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 6 from 9-11am in the Parlor. If you are a circle chair and unable to attend, please send details of your upcoming meeting to Pam Stare at starep@comcast.net.
- **UMW Bunco** | Sunday, February 24 | 2-4pm | Wiley Hall | Come enjoy this fun game and get to know other women from Baker Memorial UMC.
- **Lydia Circle** | Tuesday, February 26 | 6:30pm | We will meet at the home of Claire Replogle to do a service project for Lazarus House women residents called "From Our Hearts to Theirs." For more information contact Claire at 630-518-5023 or claire.replogle@gmail.com.
- **Phoebe Circle** | Wednesday, February 13 | 9-11am & 5-6pm | We're making Phoebe Stew for WNS! Meet in the kitchen for food prep and table setting in the morning and later for the dinner and clean-up.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE CORNER

### 2018 YTD Financial Information

**Operating Fund Balance as of 12/31/2018 is \$ 67,090**

Thank you to all of you that pledged as part of the Stewardship Campaign. The 2019 budget approved by church council in December is able to move forward thanks to those pledges. We are currently working on finding an appropriate holding fund for the Capital Campaign contributions as they roll in so that your gifts can continue to grow while we approach our projects.

Please prayerfully consider being a part of the Capital Campaign. The finance committee supports this campaign fully and will assist in any way we can.

## UMW Gift Card Fundraiser is Ongoing

UMW will continue to take monthly orders for gift cards. Orders should be placed by the 11th of the month with expected delivery within a week. Please see Betty Erickson with questions at N9YFC@aol.com.

## The Rummage Sale is Coming Soon!

The annual Baker Memorial UMC Rummage Sale (set up and sale) will happen the week of April 7-13. In the interim, Marie Kundo and the *Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* are sweeping the country. Baker families are already bringing their surplus and spring cleaning to the corner house (217 Cedar Ave, by appointment) in preparation for the rummage sale, so if you have things you're getting rid of, skip Goodwill and Salvation Army and bring it to our staging area next door.

## Missing Something?

Check the lost and found table in the back of Wiley Hall. We have accumulated many items the last several weeks.

## Giving Envelopes Can Be Picked Up

The 2019 giving envelopes are available in the hallway outside of Baker Hall.

## Credit Card & Paypal Donation Options

If you would like to donate to Baker Memorial UMC using a credit card or Paypal, go to BakerMemorialChurch.org and click on the donate button or you can scan our QR code, shown here, to give with your smart phone.



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# MISSIONS CORNER

## *Opportunities for Service*

### NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK OPPORTUNITIES

There are two opportunities to serve at NIF in this month. We have an evening session on Tuesday, February 12 from 6-8pm. Contact Jennifer Cervan at paddeaux@att.net, if you are interested.

The second session is Monday, February 18 from 9am-Noon. Every third Monday a team meets at the food bank to package food for those in need. It is a rewarding and fun mission to be involved in. If you would like to join the team or get more information contact Betty Erickson at N9FYC@aol.com. The Northern Illinois Food Bank is located at 273 Dearborn Court in Geneva.

### AND THE TOTAL IS...

Salvation Army Bell Ringing total for Baker Church was \$9,566. Many thanks to all who rang and Rick Carlson for his continued coordination!

### A HEARTFELT THANKS

The Blood Drive was a big success on a snowy day! 25 donors braved the storm and 21 pints were collected! Many thanks to all that came and gave the gift of life!

Mark your calendar and save the date for the next blood drive on Wednesday, October 9.

### THE NOLA HOUSE IS BACK

The NOLA house is coming back! This will be the Adult Missions Team 10th year serving in New Orleans. You may remember from a few years ago we were building a POPSICLE HOUSE designed after a New Orleans row house. The house is not finished and we thought our 10th year would be a good time to do just that! Here is how it works...stop by Baker Hall on Sundays, March 10, 17 or 24 to purchase a popsicle stick for \$10. Record your name or your family's name on the stick. In return, we'll give you a New Orleans bead necklace. The stick may finish the walls, the roof or maybe even the porch! Leave us your email and we will send you pictures of our work in the lower 9th ward!

### ADULT MISSION TEAM PREPARES FOR TRIP

The adult mission team prepares to serve in New Orleans this month! The team thanks you for your support this year! You may have purchased one of our handmade signs, or pumpkins or ghosts. You may have supported or attended the Baker Café in the Fall or you may have helped us finish our NOLA Popsicle House.

However you supported our efforts in improving situations in New Orleans, we thank you! Please pray for the team March 31 through April 7 as we travel and work in the lower 9th ward. To find out how the trip went look for an article in the May Carillon!

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## A New Way of Experiencing the Bible Together

It's not a Bible study, it's more like a book club. It's ultimately an invitation to a vibrant, transformative relationship with God and with each other through the Word.

We begin with *Messiah*. *Immerse: Messiah* is the first of the six session Immerse program. *Messiah* takes the reader on a journey through the New Testament without chapter or verse breaks. The end result is a Bible developed for the purpose of being read and understood, not referred to.



### HOW IMMERSE WORKS

**Who:** Groups consist of 8-12 people. This is a great opportunity to invite friends, coworkers or neighbors who wouldn't normally join a Bible study. The goal is simple; to talk about your reactions to the week's reading.

**When:** Meet together once per week, planning to spend 60-90 minutes in discussion. Groups meet the weeks of March 3 through May 11.

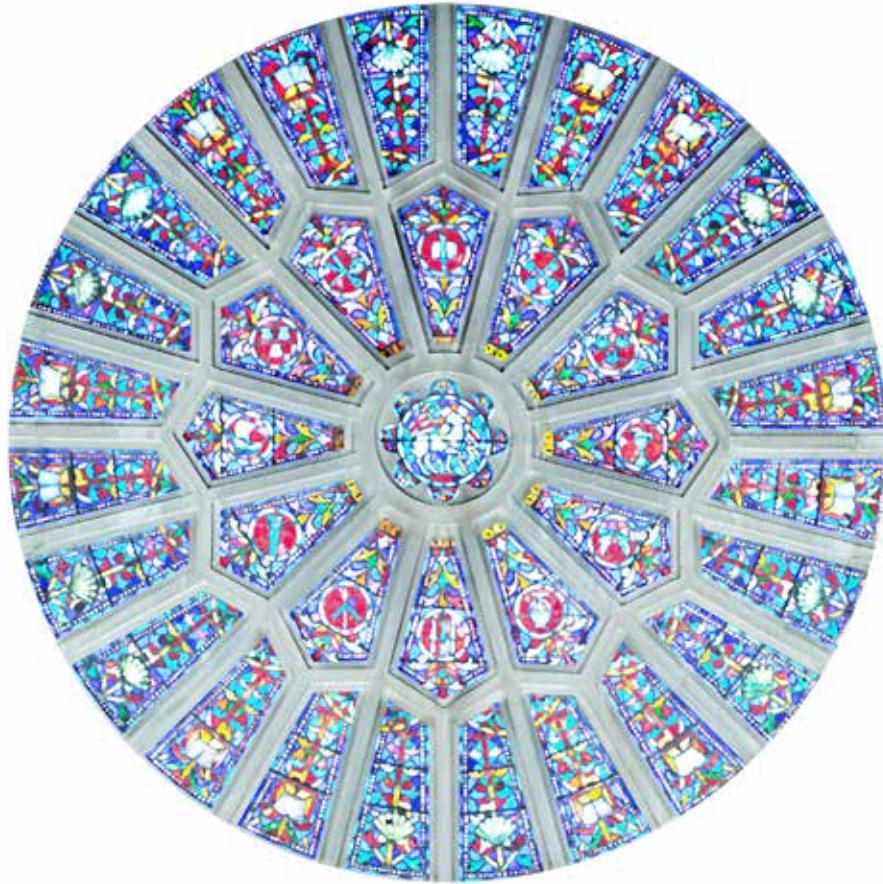
**How:** You can read or listen to the book on podcasts. Copies of *Messiah* will be available from the host at the first meeting.

**Find your group!** There will be a wide variety of group locations and times, to make it convenient to participate. The group's hosts establish the location, day and time. A group may meet in a public place (coffee shop, restaurant, etc), a home or at church. Check out the options and find your group!

▶ **YOU'RE INVITED TO SIGN UP.** Sign up and find a group at Sunday fellowship in Baker Hall or online, starting Sunday, February 3. Lent is a wonderful time to begin *Immerse: Messiah*!

# FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9am Worship 9am Sunday School: Children, Middle School &amp; Adult 10:30am Jazz Worship 10:30am High School Sunday School</p>	<p>11:30am FaithFriends 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11:30am Day Guest Lunch 11:30am Kiwanis 1:30pm Staff Meeting 8pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>4:30pm Chapel Bells 5pm Wednesday Night Supper 5pm Wesley Singers 5pm Chapel Choir 6pm Chancel Bells 6pm Confirmation 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7:30am FaithFriends 11:30am Day Guest Lunch</p>	<p><b>NOTE: The first row of items occur every week and will not appear on daily listings (except in case of schedule change)</b></p>	
				<p><b>1</b> 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 8:30am-4pm Lifeline Screening 1pm One O'Clock Book Club 7pm Staff Parish</p>	<p><b>5</b> 11:30am DBTP 6:30pm DBTP</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9am UMW Leadership Meeting 6:30pm A Blueprint for Discipleship</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:30am FaithFriends 6pm Cap Camp Steering Comm</p>	<p><b>8</b> 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>
<p><b>10</b> 10am Work Trip Meeting 11:30am Joseph 12:30pm Miriam Circle 4pm Sisterhood 6:30pm Brotherhood</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7pm Trustees</p> 	<p><b>12</b> 11:30am DBTP 3:30pm Lazarus House Cooking 6:30pm DBTP 6:30pm Children &amp; Family 7pm Finance</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9am Phoebe Circle 5pm Phoebe Stew Fundraiser (WNS) 6:30pm A Blueprint for Discipleship</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> 1pm Women's Emmaus 6pm Cap Camp Steering Comm</p>	<p><b>15</b> 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	<p><b>16</b> All day Confirmation Service Project</p>
<p><b>17</b> 7:30pm Men's Breakfast</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>President's Day</b> 9am NIL Food Bank 7pm Church Council</p>	<p><b>19</b> 11:30am DBTP 5pm Woman's Emmaus (off site) 6:30pm DBTP 6:30pm Youth Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Carillon Articles Due</b> 6:30pm A Blueprint for Discipleship</p>	<p><b>21</b> 1pm Women's Emmaus 6pm Cap Camp Steering Comm</p>	<p><b>22</b> 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>24</b> 2pm UMW Bunco 4pm Sisterhood 6:30pm Brotherhood</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7pm Worship/ Spiritual Growth</p>	<p><b>26</b> 11:30am DBTP 6:30pm DBTP 6:30 Lydia Circle</p>	<p><b>27</b> 1:30pm Sarah-Ruth Circle 5pm BakerYouth Casserole Cookoff Fundraiser (WNS)</p>	<p><b>28</b> 8am-4pm Red Cross 6pm Cap Camp Steering Comm</p>		



## STAFF

Rev. Mary Zajac | *Senior Pastor*

Jeffery Hunt | *Director, Music Ministry*

Mark Edwards | *Organist*

Shelly Stienbarger | *Director, Children & Family Ministry*

Jenn Gunn | *Director, Administration & Communications*

Carl E. King | *Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

Michele Claney | *Creative Director*

Judy Schlarb | *Finance Manager*

Lita Jimenez | *Church Accountant*

Karl Lescelius | *Building Maintenance Manager*

# BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*A traditional church for a modern world*

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