

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CARILLON

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



PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Freedom—Well, it's complicated...

For freedom Christ has set us free. —Galatians 5:1

Independence Day has come once again. Fireworks, parades, barbecues, and patriotic popsicles are a few of my favorite things on this day. Yet when I stop to think about it, what are we celebrating? What kind of freedom do we have? As citizens of these United States we celebrate sovereignty. The right to not be a part of the British Empire. The right to govern ourselves as we choose, or at least as our representatives choose to govern.

We are free to practice religion, and pursue happiness, yet we still have laws and breaking those laws still carries real penalties. We are not free to do whatever we want, whenever we want.

Independence Day always makes me think about what it means to be free in Christ. Over the history of the Christian faith some people have thought that it means that we can do whatever we want, whenever we want. After all, Christ

forgives us. However, the apostle Paul makes it clear that freedom in Christ means no such thing. Just a few verses after the one noted above, Paul tells the church in Galatia not to use their freedom for self-indulgence (or you might say self-love). Rather, he says, use this freedom to love others. Perhaps we might say that we have been set free by love, so that we can freely give love.

It's impossible to explain this entirely, because God's love is bigger than our capacity to understand in full. However, I'll try to explain at least a little part that I hold dear.

Being free in Christ is to know that you are deeply loved. Practicing Christians receive God's love in such abundance that it is like our cup overflows. Once we have that much love, we discover that we are not needy for approval, admiration, or attention from the world. Of course we still appreciate these things, but in great part we are set free from pursuing these things.

This kind of freedom is an amazing gift. Consider how much time, money, and anxiety people spend trying to get other people to love them. Consider the things people do

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PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

because they want to try and fit in. Receiving God's love in Christ sets us free from this neediness and insecurity. We don't have to dress in a way that meets the approval of the fashion forward or the "in crowd." We don't have

In Christ we are free to love, and so we are free to be more fully human as God designed.

to take it personally or react defensively when someone doesn't agree with what we've said. What we have

to do is make sure we stay connected to Christ's way of living, Christ's love in speaking, and Christ's desires for our lives.

When we are not so focused on filling our endless human need for love and approval, we can freely love others in the way God has loved us. In the context of a 4th of July parade, it's like being the person who has an endless supply

of candy to throw to the crowds. No need to be afraid that we're going to run out, or not have enough for ourselves. In fact we have so much that we have to pass it on to others. If we don't, it will just go to waste.

Having capacity to love others is a wonderful gift. There is true joy when others thrive, and true compassion and desire to help when they have needs. Love knits us together in a rich fabric of relationships. It helps us experience the fullness of being human. In Christ we are free to love, and so we are free to be more fully human as God designed.

Happy Independence Day. Celebrate our national freedom, and have one of those red, white and blue popsicles if you can. However, let's also take this opportunity to celebrate our Christian freedom. What a gift we have received. Our need for love is fulfilled, and now we have the freedom to love others abundantly.

In Christ
Pastor Mary

VBS 2019! Our Athens Week in Pictures



Children & Family Ministries

GOD LOVES US ALL

Family Bible Verse: *“The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.”* —Psalm 145:9

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VBS

VBS is a more than a blessing. It is a gift of God’s love through us to the children, volunteers, and everyone who has contact with VBS. It starts with a smile, singing a song, and then you’re hooked. The song never ends in your head. Don’t worry, the music was uplifting and happy. Of course, we would not have had music or pictures if it weren’t for our media crew. Thank you Media crew!



Our Athens set decorator and decorating team did such a fabulous job that two of the Sunday school rooms will remain intact for the children to continue to use. We had two amazing marketplaces for the children to use for their craft area. One was decorated with the coastal vibe and the other an outdoor school trade shop. The children worked with their hands creating

pottery, necklaces, and even an abacus. Thanks to the many, many hands who helped in these shops to either pre-prepare or to add the finishing touch-ups after each session. Thank you Marketplace helping hands!

Our Celebration center in Wiley Hall was beautiful. We had amazing pillars that stood before an ocean backdrop. There were murals on the walls with God sightings the children and volunteers filled out each day. If you would like to see more pictures, please let me know because we took plenty. Thank you to the Set Director and Decorating Crew for making Athens come alive to the children. It was perfect! One of my favorite things each day was the snack time because everyone had the opportunity to sample Greek food along with their snack. There were almonds, olives, apples, & special Greek cookies too. Thank you Food Market Team! You’re extra



input on Greek food and customs was enjoyable. Also, while we were sampling food, Apostle Paul would talk to the groups. Hearing from Apostle Paul and Dionysius in person really brought the stories from the Bible alive for me. Amazing performances! Then, there were the Arena Games which were exciting to watch. Don’t worry there were no chariot races, but each game day was a

highlight of the day. Thank you to the Arena Games Crew!

Thank you again to everyone who helped with our VBS Athens this summer by praying, supplying props, food, muscle with the set, planning, participating, creating, cleaning, etc. It was a success and great to see how our Baker church shares God’s love with others. Speaking of sharing, the VBS offering almost reached \$300 for our missionary, Clara, in Cambodia. Yay!

I kept hearing two words this week: faith and love. We had faith and God supplied the volunteers for a successful VBS where we were reminded that God’s love is never ending.

This year we had 43 children join us on our adventures to share the truth of God’s love. Thank you again! Join us next year for VBS June 15-19, 2020!

VBS Blessings & Joy,
Shelly Stienbarger
Director, Children & Family Ministry

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **July Curriculum** | Jonah and the Fish | 9am
- **July 7** | July 4th Weekend | No Sunday School
- **July 14 & 21** | Sunday School | 9am
- **July 28** | Evangelism Sunday | No Sunday School

THANK YOU!

- **VBS:** Volunteers, Helping Hands, Prepping, Praying, Participants, Donations, Creating, etc.
- **June Teachers & Shepherds:** Donna Lyons, Melissa Arndt, Chrissy Farley, Danielle Wukitsch, Danielle Helland, Chris Stumpf & Mitzi Babka
- **Nursery:** Catherine & Jade Rosenquist, Danni Killian & Eleanor Sams
- **Praise & Worship:** Melissa Arndt & Brooke Bayless

Youth Ministry

WORK CAMP, HERE WE COME!

Our young people closed out the month of June by volunteering in many capacities for our church VBS program. They built sets, put up decorations, taught Bible stories, served food, led games and cleaned up after everyone had gone home. Kudos and a huge thank you to each youth and parent who gave their time and energy. Now, we're off to Rushville, Indiana to work some more.

Every year, our church identifies a worthy place for our young people to go and serve for a week and for the past few years, we have used Group Mission Trips to organize, plan and host this event. It has been a blast and this year promises to be just as epic. We'll build wheelchair ramps, repair homes, sand and paint structures and spend a lot of time praying, bonding and worshiping. Here is an excerpt from the Group website about Rushville:

Rushville is very much the typical small Midwestern town, located about halfway between Indianapolis and Cincinnati. And, like so many small Midwestern towns, it is still very focused on agriculture. But again, like most of the Midwest, many of the people there once made a good living at manufacturing facilities that have moved away, downsized, or simply closed.

Those who choose to stay either struggle to find work or

accept what few low-paying jobs remain. Because so many younger people have moved away in search of work, the community is aging. In fact, 15 to 20 percent of the families that live there now depend upon various food assistance programs to survive from one month to the next.

One of the things I hear yearly is how this event sneaks up on us. It seems like forever and there is plenty of time to sign up, until it is just a few days away. If you see the value of your young person participating in this event, go ahead and put it in your calendar now, for 2020. The date will be about the same, but the location will change. Also, if that date does not work for whatever reason, we have the opportunity to take part in another tremendous mission opportunity called Plumblin' Tour. I first heard about it last year and have since mentioned it to young people and parents. It would be tremendous to take a group of ten 9th-12th grade teenagers on this exploration of faith and justice.

Pray for us while we are away and log on to Instagram and facebook to follow along with our exploits, hijinks and faith formation.

In God's service,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry

Young Adult Ministry

LIONS AND COUGARS AND CHAIRS, OH MY!

As small children, many millennials were exposed to the traumatic story of a brother who betrays his brother in order to become a king. They witnessed the devastation it wrought on a young prince who lost his way after the murder of his father. Their hopes dashed, these same children watched as misfit friends walked him through recovery, taught him bravery and responsibility and accompanied him on the journey back to his rightful place as king. This month, we hope to re-traumatize those children who are now young adults at the 7pm showing of The Lion King at Classic Cinemas in the Charlestowne Mall. Yep, we're going to the movies on Tuesday, July 23 and we hope you can join us.

Also in July, on the 18th, we're going back to the Kane County Cougars to take in a Thirsty Thursdays game. It will be a home game with inexpensive tickets, food and drinks.

We're going to try and coordinate, as well as make an announcement about our group, so the more the merrier. Email or text to let us know you're coming.

Finally, we continue to meet on Tuesdays at Arcadium. The interest is growing, though attendance is not there yet. Drop in on Tuesdays at 6pm and hang out with Baker Memorial young adults. There is no requirement to have read the material, but if you can get the book, "Educated," it will certainly enliven the conversation. As always, invite your friends and co-workers to these events, as they provide an easy point of entry into our church and community.

In Christ,
Carl King
Director of Young Adult Ministry

MISSIONS CORNER

Opportunities for Service

M&M SUMMER FUNDRAISER CONTINUES

Many thanks to all who took home their M&M's, ate, prayed and contributed in June supporting our Missionary in Cambodia, Clara Biswas. We had the pleasure of meeting Clara last summer when she visited and heard about her ministry! If you missed the opportunity, there will be another on Sunday, July 21 and August 18. We ask that you take home the container, eat the M&M's, pray as a family and fill with cash or a check to support Clara's ministry and our Rainbow Covenant commitment. The following Sunday you can return the container as you enter the sanctuary. The funds collected will go a long way in helping the street kids of Cambodia and their families! Contact Chris Stumpf with any questions at cstumpf0308@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!

JOIN US AT THE NIL FOOD BANK IN JULY

The next NIL Foodbank volunteer date is Monday, July 15 from 9am-Noon. Every third Monday, a team meets at the food bank at 273 Dearborn Ct. in Geneva 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

A SILENT AUCTION IS COMING THIS FALL

Adult Mission Trip Silent Auction will take place in November. We will have many baskets, certificates and treasures on display and available for three weeks of silent bidding! If you have an item, gift certificate, would like to help or have any great ideas, please contact Chris Stumpf at cstumpf0308@gmail.com. Your support is most appreciated!



APRIL 2019 DISBURSEMENTS		
International		
4/1 Food For The Poor Haiti	\$138,672.00	
National/Local		
4/2 The Outlet 2 bikes		
4/3 Nebraska 78" fabric		
4/4 Franciscan Mission *192" medical		
4/5 Bikers For Christ 504 PDKs		
4/5 Share The Love *348" cleaning		
4/9 Auburn, Mi 96 PDKs		
4/9 Midland F.O.A.R. 192 PDKs		
4/10 Auburn, Il 32" fabric		
4/15 A&C Ed. Center *129" cleaning		
4/17 Popillion, Ne. *7" cleaning		
4/17 D...		
4/17 Ne...		
4/17 We...		
4/23 Ma...		
4/24 Ca...		
4/24 Ca...		
		APRIL VALUE

MIDWEST DISTRIBUTION CENTER VISIT

In all the times I have been to the Midwest Distribution Center, I have never had the opportunity to be part of praying for a shipment about to leave. We prayed for the empty buckets going to Florida in preparation for the hurricane season. Also, see how much has been shipped recently. We are a part of this amazing organization. —Betty Erickson

► Want more information about the Midwest Distribution Center? Go to midwestmission.org



• Summer Offering •
GIVE & PRAY
 An offering for missionary Clara Biswas



OPENING NEW DOORS

Capital Campaign Update

The Opening New Doors Capital Campaign is continuing to move forward! We are pleased to announce that as of June 6, we have received pledges totaling over **\$1,522,600**. If you would like to contribute or have a question, please email capcam@bakermemorialchurch.org or call the church office.

What are *you* excited about?

We are moving onto Phase Two of the Capital Campaign. That means things are going to start happening! We want you to tell us what renovation, upgrade or project that you look forward to see happening. What are you excited about? Fill out a card in Baker Hall at fellowship or email us at capcam@bakermemorialchurch.org. We would love to hear from you.

Here are some of the responses we've received. *I'm excited about...*

- Baker Hall being renovated
- The endgame
- A fresh welcoming look to the Cedar Ave. entrance

Immerse: Beginnings is Recruiting



Baker is planning for another Immerse session this fall: Immerse: Beginnings. *Beginnings* is the second installment of the six volumes of Immerse: Beginnings takes us on a unique journey through the first five books of the Bible. The Pentateuch. From Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Alan McCurdy is now recruiting leaders for the Immerse sessions. We had strong

participation last session and we'd like to continue and build upon that success.

If you led or facilitated a group last session, we'd like to have you back. If you are interested in leading or participating, please contact Alan McCurdy at church in between services, by email at amccurdy54@aol.com or via cell phone at 847-309-6904.

Lifeline Screening Opportunity



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Baker Memorial United Methodist Church on Monday, August 5.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms

which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes four vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with Lifeline member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129.

- Call toll-free: 1-888-653-6441
- Visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle>
- Text the word *circle* to 797979

One O'Clock Book Group for July

This book discussion group meets in the Parlor at 1pm on the first Monday of each month. The selection for August 5 is *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. This fast-paced story offers courageous heroines, villains you love to hate, and dramatic life-or-death stakes. Copies are available on the book club shelves at the St. Charles Public Library. All are invited to join in the lively discussion. For information, contact Shelley Campbell at sscbooks@sbcglobal.net.



Annual Conference Summary

180th Session: June 2-4, 2019

This year's Annual Conference met in a new location at the Renaissance Schaumburg. The schedule remained the same with special activities, legislation, music and worship.

There were many anniversaries to celebrate this year—150 years of UMW, 180 years of Northern Illinois Conference, 100 years of scouting programs connection to the church, 50th anniversary of the Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) and 200 years in global missions.

The session started with the Episcopal Address. Bishop Dyck explained the symbol for the conference, the Sankofa which is a mythical bird from Ghana, West Africa. Its name means to “go back and fetch”. The body represents the past (where it's been and what it's learned) the head represents the present (where it is now and trying to understand how it got here). The egg represents the future (what it will yet be). We often have to go back to the place where we lost our way or our identity in order to regain/fetch who we



have been at our best. Then we can go forward, knowing who we are.” This is a very fitting symbol with all that is going on in our church. Looking back allows a better look at your future. Our history was reviewed. The Bishop questioned

how we are with each other. How do we treat each other? Let us do NO harm. She also announced that she will be retiring in September 2020.

We then had our first plenary session and a test vote with our new voting devices. After 12 voting sessions Laity had their delegates elected. Clergy took a little longer 13 votes with a plurality vote finishing their election.

Legislation was a bit easier with show of hands. The consent calendar went thru smoothly with Special Offering Sundays appointed, approval of closing four churches and 10 pieces of legislation to be sent to the General Conference in 2020 for consideration. Most of the legislation supports the Simple Plan and the removal of discriminatory language against LGBTQAI persons in the Book of Discipline. A set of three goals were adopted for the overall conference. A task force was approved to be formed to explore a way forward for the NIC including the possibility of connecting to/creating a new Methodist expression. After some debate, the Annual Conference (AC) voted to suspend payments to the General Administration



Baker Memorial UMC received the One Matters Discipleship award at Annual Conference. The award recognizes churches that have a significant number of people professing faith and being baptized.

Fund until changes are made to the structure and practices of the General Conference particularly in light of questions over voting irregularities at the February Special Session. The General Administration Fund underwrites General Conference and the Judicial Council.

The AC also approved legislation to “do no harm” by limiting complaints and trials, to call on the restructuring of The United Methodist Church to be more inclusive, and to form a task force to explore a way forward for the NIC, including the possibility of a new Methodist expression.

The Bible study this year was led by the Chief Executive Officer of the United Methodist Women, Harriett Olson. She discussed how women's work isn't always credited to women. We talked about Numbers 27, looking to women in the Scriptures who persisted and followed God's call despite barriers.

There was a celebration of life with a new church plant in an old church building—The Center. The Pastor, Bob Butler, was wearing a t-shirt that said *I got a guy*—the guy being Jesus.

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center truck was filled to the brim with supplies for different kits. Thank you to all who brought in 135 toothbrushes and 34 toothpastes. Our district didn't win the recognition for bringing the most, but everyone wins with the supplies.

The Board of Pensions brought to our attention that

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Annual Conference Report

Continued from page 7.

multiple churches are in arrears in paying pensions by about \$1.2 million. Churches are also in arrears in paying for their pastor's health insurance. There will be a new health plan that will include three options, including a flex spend option for those covered by Conference insurance.

Board of Ordained Ministry shared that they have a new structure as well.

The Bishops appeal raised \$53,437 for NIC Outdoor and Retreat Ministries. Aurora district did contribute the most dollars. The money will go for camperships to send children to camp who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it. The outdoor and retreat ministries want to challenge each church to find and send five un-churched youth to camp, and one of their own "churched" youth to camp as a chaperone who will be trained."

The One Matters Discipleship Award was created by the Discipleship Ministries (GBOD) in 2015 with the purpose of lifting up churches who have in recent years moved from 0 baptisms and 0 professions of faith into positive numbers as they redirected their focus toward intentional discipleship. In addition to the One Matters Discipleship plaque, each church receives \$1,000 to encourage the continuation of their work in discipleship. We won the award for the Aurora district. The funds will be used for outreach.

When all was said and done, it was a very intense two days for all involved. The Annual Conference will meet again this Fall in a special session to approve a budget for 2020.

—*Kim Starr, Betty Erickson, Debbie Conterato and Steve Wright.*



June 9 was Volunteer Appreciation Sunday. We celebrated God's gifts and all those who volunteer at the church. Baker Hall was draped with the names of all those who volunteered this past year and it was quite impressive. Thank you to our volunteers!

Careful Christian Conversations

Everyone who is interested in exploring the topic of human sexuality and the Christian faith is invited to attend any of the following sessions during the month of July. The sessions that occur in the same week will be identical in content. Each week will be a slightly different discussion. Each session will be designed to stand alone so you can attend when you are available. However, it is best to attend all three, since the understanding gained in one week will be helpful for your conversation in the next. Each session will include some overview material, as well as discussion in small groups. Please do not attend with the intent of convincing others, rather please come seeking

to explore your own understanding in community. No need to register. We will meet and make it work with how ever many attend. Sessions will be led by Pastor Mary on Mondays July 8, 15 and 22 from 1-3pm OR Wednesdays July 10, 17 and 24 from 6:30-8:30pm

Coming Soon—Jesus at the Movies

Pastor Mary would like suggestions for movies to talk about in her August Sermon Series, "Jesus at the Movies." Any movie suggestion is welcomed, especially those that are not about Jesus directly. Movie title submissions can be sent to info@bakermemorialchurch.org or written on your attendance slips by July 14.

Day Guest Meal Donations Needed

Baker Memorial UMC serves lunch on Tuesday and Thursday to the under-served in St. Charles. About 12-15 adults join our staff for fellowship and community building over lunch. To volunteer or for more information, call the church office, email the program coordinator, Judy Schlarb, at jschlarb@bakermemorialchurch.org or go sign up online at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/z9dyzd>

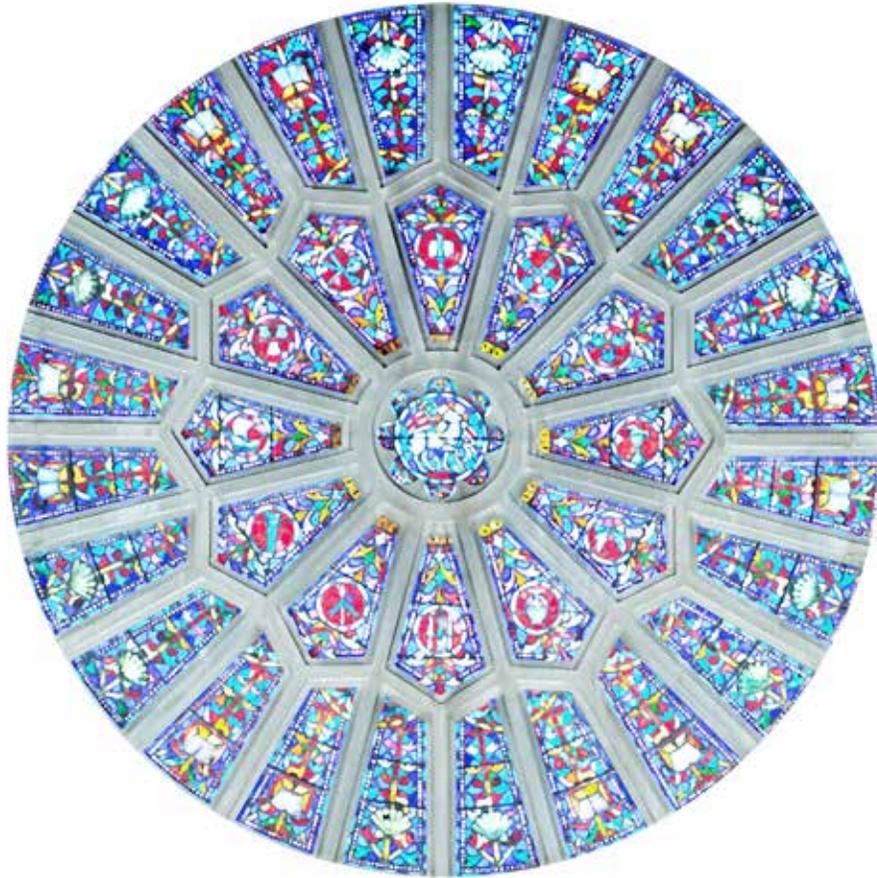
Credit Card & Paypal Donation Options

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.



JULY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9am Worship 9am Sunday School: Children 10:30am Jazz Worship	11:30am FaithFriends 7pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Day Guest Lunch 11:30am Kiwanis 1:30pm Staff Meeting 8pm Alcoholics Anonymous		7:30am FaithFriends 1:30am Day Guest Lunch	NOTE: The first row of items occur every week and will not appear on daily listings (except in case of schedule change)	
	1 1pm One O'Clock Book Club	2 6pm Young Adult Study @Arcedium	3	4 Independence Day (Church building closed today)	5 8am Farmer's Market	6
7	8 1pm Careful Christian Conversations 7pm Spiritual Formation & Discipleship	9 3:30pm Lazarus House Cooking 6pm Young Adult Study @Arcedium	10 6:30pm Careful Christian Conversations		12 8am Farmer's Market	13 9am UMM Cleaning Baker Hall
14 12pm Have A Look Membership Class	15 9am NIL Food Bank 1pm Careful Christian Conversations 7pm Strategy & Administration Team	16 5pm Woman's Emmaus <i>offsite</i> 6pm Young Adult Study @Arcedium	17 6:30pm Careful Christian Conversations	18 1pm Women's Emmaus	19 8am Farmer's Market	20 Carillon Articles Due
21 9am Worship	22 1pm Careful Christian Conversations	23 6pm Young Adult Study @Arcedium	24 6pm Summer Reading Discussion 6:30pm Careful Christian Conversations	25 7pm SING Concert	26 8am Farmer's Market	27 9am-Baptism Class
28	29	30 6pm Young Adult Study @Arcedium	31			



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

307 CEDAR AVENUE | ST. CHARLES, IL 60174
630-584-6680 | BAKERMEMORIALCHURCH.ORG