

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CARILLON

December 2017

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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

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



PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Chrismons Mark the Coming of Christmas

The Christmas Trees at the front of the sanctuary are looking a little bare as Advent begins. We often hang all of the ornaments at the beginning of the season. However, this year I've asked to slow that process down a little. Advent is the season of waiting and growing in anticipation as the coming of Christ approaches. This year we'll see the approach of Christmas visually as more of the white Chrismon ornaments are added each week.



Many people are not familiar with Chrismons. The word Chrismon is short for Christ monograms because each ornament is a symbol, or monogram, of Christ. Each symbol can also be associated with a Bible passage. For example, there's a crown to signify Christ as King. A passage associated with that symbol comes from Revelation 19:16.

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

When we look at the crown ornament we remember that Christ will reign as King over all earthly Kings and Lord over all who would call themselves a lord.

The symbols are ancient, however the concept of hanging them on a Christmas tree is relatively new. Francis Spencer of a Lutheran Church in Virginia started the tradition in 1957. Since then many churches and families have adopted this practice as a way of keeping Christ at the center of the "Christ"-mas season.

Our ornaments are special on an additional level because they were handmade by a Christian couple who decided to make Chrismon ornaments their retirement mission. They started in 1989 with a single set for their own tree and then started selling them at craft fairs. They report that they sell about 4000 ornaments a year and donate all of the proceeds, after they cover their material costs, to mission projects around the world.

We have 24 different Chrismon ornaments that we will hang on the trees this year. Each is a simple white ornament with deep meaning in the tradition of Christianity. Each has produced some small amount of good in the world through missions giving. We'll give you the story of one symbol each week in our announcement sheets, and another in the Weekly Word. Watch and wait as the coming of Christ draws nearer every day!

In Christ –
Pastor Mary

Children & Family Ministries

CELEBRATING JESUS

This month, I am so excited because it is Jesus' Birthday. I had a hard time picking which family Bible verse to choose John 3:16, or even 1 Corinthians 10:24. I choose Philippians 4:4-7 because this verse helps me keep my Christmas spirit-filled each holiday season by keeping Christ in Christmas. If you did not already know this, I've worked in the retail chaos for seventeen years. This time of year, could easily lead anyone to anxiety, stress, or to be quick to anger.



I had to practice rejoicing, finding small blessings in each day, like a hot shower, and slowly training myself to not worry. Growing up, my grandfather called me "Eeyore" from "Winnie the Pooh". I have to make my mind up each day to

choose to be glad and to rejoice in the Lord, and not focus on the difficult circumstances. Smile! Be gentle and patient with others. Oh, those retail lines are everywhere. These simple steps help me show others I have a relationship with Christ. Choosing to rejoice also reduces stress in my life. Again, there are times our temper could be challenged, but hit your pause button. Use your favorite Bible verse to meditate, focus on God's love, and pray.

This secret is not in an Oprah book, but in the Bible. Find your favorite scriptures to bring you peace which will guard your heart and mind against anxiety. God is never

too busy to enjoy a cup of coffee with you in the morning or at night in your prayer chair. Remember, stop your worries and in every situation, bring it to the Lord. Jesus fills our hearts with love and joy. Merry Christmas! Happy Birthday Jesus!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December Sunday School Curriculum | Celebrate the Birth of Jesus

- **Sunday, December 17** | 10am | Happy Birthday Jesus Party

- **Sunday, December 31** | No Sunday School

Wednesday Nights | 6pm | Baker Kids

- **Wednesday, December 6** | Homeless mats

- December 13 & 20 | Ornament crafts

Sunday, December 24 | 4pm | Family Christmas Eve Service

THANK YOU!

November Teachers: Rigel, Phillip, & Loretta Nelson, Gina Armstrong, Toni Peck, & Kelly John

FAMILY BIBLE VERSE

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

—Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

Blessings and Joy,
Shelly Stienbarger



UMW's Miriam Circle and friends packed 62 boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to everyone for their support in donating money for shipping and gift items for the boxes. It was a fun packing party!

Youth Ministry

*“God is more interested in our growth than our guilt.”
—Linda Douty (Praying in the Messiness of Life)*

Around this time every year, I make plans to close out the calendar with a bang and recap successes and failures. There are always plenty of both, so focus is crucial in the analysis. With young people though, we get a glimpse into the development of another human being in real time. As parents, this process can vary from scary to exhilarating to humbling. One thing we can say is that raising young people is rarely boring. The quote above is powerful because it does not deal as much with success or failure. Instead, our lives are viewed through the more healthy lens of growth.

Jesus did not speak about succeeding or failing. He spoke about plants growing and bearing fruit. In fact, he said this is the way in which God is glorified. Growth in young people may look like more silence. On the other hand, it may involve them speaking their mind more and holding back less. These changes can be tough on parents, especially when we are around friends and other family members during the holidays and our child says something unexpected. Growth is not predictable and if you remember growing pains, it often hurts. Fortunately, Jesus taught about right judgment, forgiveness, mercy and in doing so shed light on the grace we are blessed to extend to our children. With that framework in mind, how has your young person grown this year? What are you praying for God to mature in them next year?

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Saturday, December 2 | 7pm | All Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 3 | 6:30pm | High School Youth Fellowship

Sunday, December 10 | 2pm | Joseph Fellowship

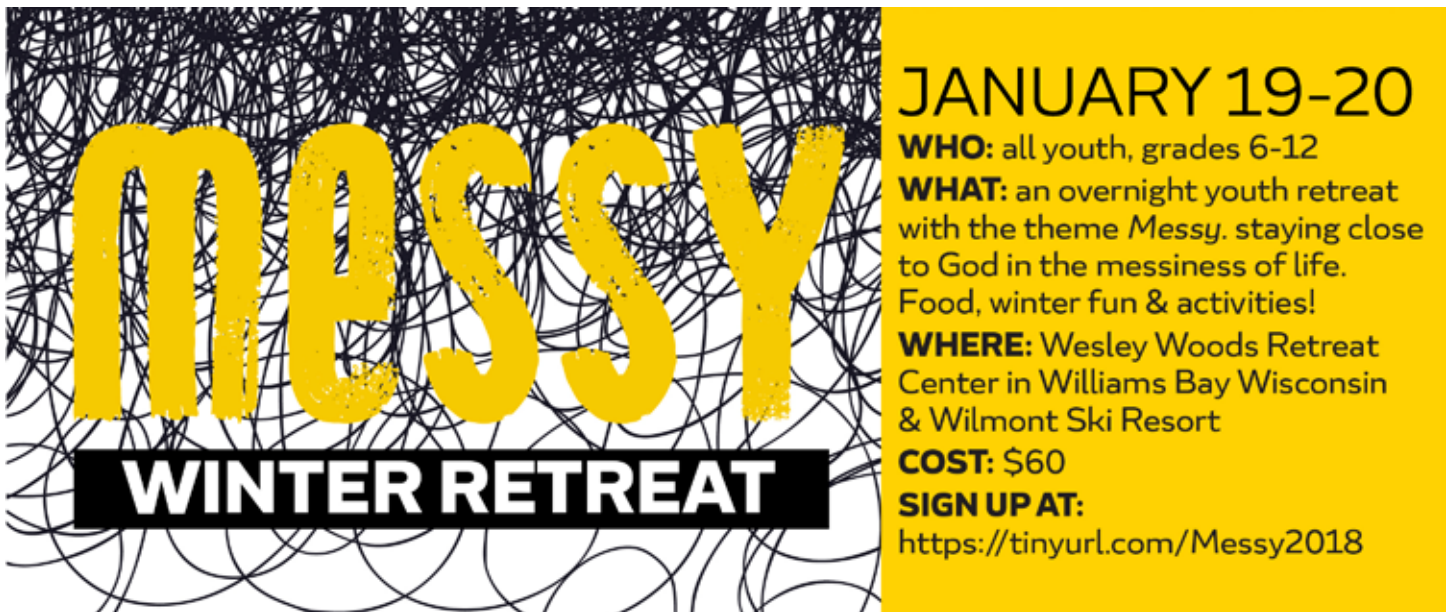
Monday, December 11 | 5-8pm | Potbelly Fundraiser

Friday, December 15 | 6:30pm | Welcome Back College Students (High School Seniors Welcome)

Sunday, December 17 | Middle School Youth Fellowship

Maybe more importantly, how have you grown this year? How has your parenting style grown to accommodate their changes? How have you demonstrated your spiritual growth to your children? The second part of the quote above is super important here. When we look back over our year, we can feel regret or second guess the decisions we made in moments of crisis. Let's not do that to ourselves and those we love. No condemnation. No guilt. Rather, let us focus squarely on what we feel God calling us to in the closing month of 2017 and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us forward.

Grace and peace,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry

The poster features a background of dense, chaotic black scribbles. The word "MESSY" is written in large, bold, yellow, distressed-style letters across the middle. Below it, the words "WINTER RETREAT" are written in white, bold, sans-serif letters on a black rectangular background.

JANUARY 19-20
WHO: all youth, grades 6-12
WHAT: an overnight youth retreat with the theme *Messy*. staying close to God in the messiness of life. Food, winter fun & activities!
WHERE: Wesley Woods Retreat Center in Williams Bay Wisconsin & Wilmont Ski Resort
COST: \$60
SIGN UP AT:
<https://tinyurl.com/Messy2018>

Young Adult Ministry

This time of year brings out different feelings and sometimes all of the feels at once. Thanksgiving has come and gone. Christmas celebrations will abound and there will be numerous opportunities to connect with others. As the holiday season continues, we will welcome back college students and get together for games, good food and spiritual growth. Most of us will watch one of our favorite Christmas movies, too.

Every major Christmas motion picture has at least one scene around the table where the main character or characters, family or friends, eat some food. In *Elf*, Buddy displays in graphic detail his love for spaghetti and syrup. There is also soda and pop tarts and other sugary substances. The scene is unforgettable, but not in a Nat King Cole kind of way. In *A Christmas Carol*, the Crachits (or the Muppets—depending on the movie) enjoy a bountiful meal after the viewers witness their struggle against cold, lack and disability. In addition to these memorable pictures there are the Baileys, the Griswolds, the Klumps, the Parkers, the Meyers. There is Kevin McAlister eating pizza and ice cream. There is *Polar Express* and a train full of children drinking hot chocolate, in addition to Louis Winthorpe III sneaking food from a buffet line out of desperation.

Not every gathering looks the same or has the same dynamic. Some are depictions of large families, while

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Wednesday, December 6 | Bible Study Group

Saturday, December 9 | 6pm | Game Night & Christmas Party

Friday, December 15 | 6:30pm | Welcome Back College Students (high school seniors welcome!)

Wednesday, December 20 | 6:30pm | Bible Study Group

others are just a single person. The unifying factor is their humanity, the food and their desire for meaningful connection with others. However, food is strangely absent from the Christmas story in the Bible. There are no lamb chops, no bread, no vegetables and drinks do not even make an appearance. The mood is desperate. There is a hopeful current, but everyone is scraping for survival while trying to make sense of the events transpiring around them. John the Baptist's father is struggling with being mute. Meanwhile, Joseph and Mary are racing to Bethlehem so they can be counted for a census, then running for their lives to Egypt in order to escape a murderous King Herod.

With this context, how can we justify sitting around a table and eating or playing games? Because even in the midst of the fear and terror depicted in Luke, Matthew and John, there was also joy. Mary visits Elizabeth and they rejoice in the hope each of them carry. This is when Mary sings her song of praise and if you have not read it in a while, read the beauty and fervor contained in the short text. It is powerful! Elizabeth's neighbors and friends celebrate her pregnancy, the shepherds exult and the wise men revel in the promise of a child sent to liberate the world. There is cause for delight. There is reason to be glad.

So, as you gather together with friends and as you enjoy holiday specials on TV, remember the glad tidings of great joy spoken by angels and the difficult times endured to bring God's promise to pass. Remind someone of what Christ has done, with or without food, around a table or in the church, as we welcome back those who have been away and reconnect with those we see often. Glory to God and peace on earth.

Grace and peace,
Carl King

Director of Young Adult Ministry



MISSIONS CORNER

Opportunities for Service

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL 'STUFF THE TURKEY' YEAR

The Baker congregation donated \$1,231 in November for the Salvation Army to purchase meals for needy families on Thanksgiving. Thanks to the congregations generosity, we were able to feed many families in the area!

ANGEL TREE TAG DEADLINE IS THE 3RD

Salvation Army Angel Tree Tags are due back Sunday, December 3. The congregation, once again, picked up 75 tags with requests from children, shopped and donated! The items will be on display in the toy shop on December 16 at the Salvation Army for parents to come in and shop for Christmas. Our collective efforts will make at least 75 children happy and cared for this Christmas. Thank you for your generosity! It is most appreciated!

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE FOR MISSIONS

Christmas Trees are available for sale through December 10th. Order your high quality, reasonably priced trees by visiting the table in Baker Hall at 10am on December 3 or 10. Proceeds will benefit the Youth Mission trip and Healing Hands Medical Ministry.

If you have questions about the trees, contact Dave Wilson at 708.302.9090. Many thanks to Dave & Loretta for their gift of trees every year for mission!

CHECK OUT THE NEXT ADULT MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Join us for the Habitat For Humanity Adult Mission Trip to New Orleans April 22-29 in 2018! This will be our 9th trip to help build homes that were devastated by Katrina. Construction volunteers are the foundation of



JOIN US FOR SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Salvation Army Bell Ringing began on November 24 at the Jewel on Randall (north entrance). Email Rick Carlson at carlson.rc@sbcglobal.net or call him at 630-779-0247 to see if you can fill a spot. Thanks go out to Rick who has organized our participation for many years!

the NOAHH homeownership program, often working alongside NOAHH partner families. Volunteers build the homes from the ground up, and their work day will vary depending on the current needs of the affiliate. Tasks range from foundation work to building walls to painting to flooring. You could be building a new home or building a wheelchair ramp for a housebound, elderly homeowner. Almost every part of the home construction and repair process is done by volunteers, making the no-interest mortgage possible for partner families. A full build day is from 8am to 4pm. There is a job for everyone! No special skills are needed—just the desire to serve!

Reservations are made in January for the Baker Team! A gathering of all interested will take place at the home of Mitzi Babka on December 3rd at 6pm. If you are interested in going with us or want more information this is an ideal time to meet the team and find out more! Contact Chris Stumpf at cstumpf0308@gmail.com or 630-709-7761!

FINANCE COMMITTEE CORNER

2017 YTD Financial Information

The finance team is finalizing the 2018 budget for Baker Memorial United Methodist Church. We are thankful for our full staff and numerous committees. Thank you to all congregation members for your donations throughout 2017. We have received a high percentage of pledges for 2018 as we work to balance the 2018 budget for approval in December. Your holiday contributions throughout the Christmas season help cover the costs associated with all the wonderful events in and around our church.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER THIS MONTH

- December 6: Lasagna, firehouse greenbeans, cesar salad, tomato barley soup and garlic bread
- December 13: Guest chef Paul Conterato will cook ham, squash & salad bar
- December 20: Roasted chicken, roasted winter veggies, buttered peas and salad bar.



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

below, to give with your smartphone.

CARING MINISTRY MESSAGE

The Day Guest Luncheons are going well with approximately 10-12 guests participating. Many members have been volunteering for this program by providing meals and clothing. Special thanks to Mid Valley Special Education volunteers for their help during the school year. Monetary gifts and gift cards to local establishments can be donated for use at the Blue Goose, Goodwill, Salvation Army, laundry tokens and Jewel. The gift cards can be used by our guests to buy sandwiches or meals on the days we don't have luncheons and to use for warm clothing and shoes.

We have a newly formed Visiting Team incorporating people that have many relationships within the church and who often have friends that would benefit from a special interaction. This team meets every couple of months to be sure that those needs are being met with visits, food, cards or phone calls.

The card ministry is a small group of people that rotate months by sending cards to anyone that can use a caring touch from someone, whether they're from our church or the community that we know and care about. We send for both concerns (health, loss of a loved one etc.) and joys (graduations, new babies, marriages).

Look for our upcoming Funeral Planning workshop in the spring. This has been well received and has been very informative.

Other programs have been successful such as the Christmas Stockings and handmade Valentines that are delivered to nursing homes. The Meal Train continues to

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

DECEMBER LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

UMW circle chairs and leadership team will meet from 9-11am in the Parlor on Wednesday, December 6.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE ON THE 17TH

Have you run out of time for holiday baking? Are you looking for a new cookie or candy? Have you eaten all the raw cookie dough that you can stand? The UMW Christmas Bake Sale can help you out! Stop by during Fellowship on December 17 and choose the treats to meet your needs.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

MEN'S BREAKFAST DATE CHANGE

The Men's Breakfast has been changed to December 10 at 7:30am. All men of the church are welcome to join us for good food and fellowship in Wiley Hall. A donation of \$3 to cover the cost of food is appreciated.

MEN'S FOOTBALL FELLOWSHIP

Men's Football Fellowship will meet Sunday, December 10 at 11:30am in the Parlor to watch the Bears at Cincinnati Bengals game. Food will be provided. After the game, the men will take on a small church maintenance project. Please bring \$5 to help defray the cost of the food.

For more information, contact UMM President, Tom Warren, 224-605-8121 or NIUHuskies50@gmail.com.

bring food to those that need some help during difficult times.

Please help us continue to provide our Caring Ministry with information about people who may need a "caring touch." If you would like to participate in any of these programs and/or know of someone who needs a visit, food, cards or phone calls, please let the church office know. Many times a person has been ill or in the hospital and we don't know about them.

Thanks to all have helped to make our Caring Ministry successful and we are always open to new ideas and volunteers.

Have a blessed holiday season,
Judy Schlarb & Sandy Vargulich

DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9am Worship 9am Sunday School: Children, Middle School & Adult 10am Cherub Choir 10:30am Jazz Worship 10:30am High School & Adult Sunday School</p>	<p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11:30am Day Guest Lunch 11:30am Kiwanis 1:30pm Staff Meeting 8pm Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>6:30 Chancel Choir 4:30pm Chapel Bells 5pm Chapel Choir 5pm Wesley Singers 5pm Wednesday Night Supper 6pm BakerKids 6pm Chancel Bells</p>	<p>11:30am Day Guest Lunch</p>	<p>1 9am Indoor Farmer's Market 7pm St. Charles Singers Concert</p>	<p>2 9am Santa Breakfast 7pm BakerYouth Christmas Party</p>
<p>3 6:30pm High School Fellowship 3pm St. Charles Singers Concert</p>	<p>4 11:30am FaithFriends 1pm One O'Clock Book Club 7pm Staff Parish</p>	<p>5 7pm Advent Study</p>	<p>6 9am UMW Leadership 11:30am DBTP 11:45am Sarah Ruth 6:30pm DBTP 6:30pm Young Adult Study 7pm Mindful Moments 7:30pm Missions</p>		<p>8 9am Indoor Farmer's Market Wiley Hall</p>	<p>9 6pm Young Adults</p>
<p>10 7:30am Men's Breakfast 11:30am Men's Football Fellowship 12pm Have-A-Look Membership Class 2pm Sisterhood DBTP 2pm Joseph Fellowship</p>	<p>11 9:30am SHIP Help for Seniors 11:30am FaithFriends 5-8pm BakerYouth Potbelly fundraiser 7pm Trustees</p>	<p>12 9:30am Phoebe Circle 3:30pm Lazarus House Cooking 7pm Children & Family Ministry 7pm Advent Study</p>	<p>13 11:30am DBTP 6pm Confirmation Packing Party 6:30pm DBTP</p>	<p>14 7:30am FaithFriends 7pm Endowment</p>	<p>15 9am Indoor Farmer's Market 5pm Lydia Circle</p>	<p>16 11am Young Women's Brunch 11:30am Miriam Circle 5pm Illinois Brass Band Concert</p>
<p>17 10am UMW Bake Sale 6:30pm Middle School Fellowship</p>	<p>18 9am NIL Food Bank 11:30am FaithFriends 6pm Strategic Use of Church Property 7pm Church Council</p>	<p>19 5pm Woman's Emmaus 7pm Advent Study</p>	<p>20 Carillon Articles Due for next month 6:30pm Young Adult Study 7pm Mindful Moments</p>	<p>21 7:30am FaithFriends 1pm Woman's Emmaus</p>	<p>22 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	
<p>24 Christmas Eve 4pm Family Service 8pm Traditional Service 10pm Traditional Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Office is closed Note: Limited office hours T-F from 10am-1pm</p>			<p>28 7:30am FaithFriends</p>	<p>29 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 New Year's Eve 9 & 10:30am Traditional Brass Watchnight Service</p>					<p>NOTE: The first row of items occur every week and will not appear on daily listings (except in case of schedule change)</p>	

— ADVENT SERMON SERIES —

WHO ARE WE WATCHING FOR?

DECEMBER 3, 10, 17 & 24

Many of the world's faith traditions look forward to the return of a key faith figure. Some people seem to think that we are all waiting for the same person by different names. In this series we will explore how waiting for Christ is similar to, and yet different from what other faiths are hoping for.



ADVENT STUDY
ON THE

Messiah

Come and experience the scriptures sung to beautifully expressive music in this study of Part 1 of Handel's amazing oratorio work—The Messiah

3 POSSIBLE TIMES TO ATTEND!

December 3, 10 & 17 | 9 or 10:30am
Adult Sunday School meets in the Parlor

Tuesday, December 5, 12 & 19 | 7pm
No need to register, just come & enjoy!

CANDLELIGHT

Worship



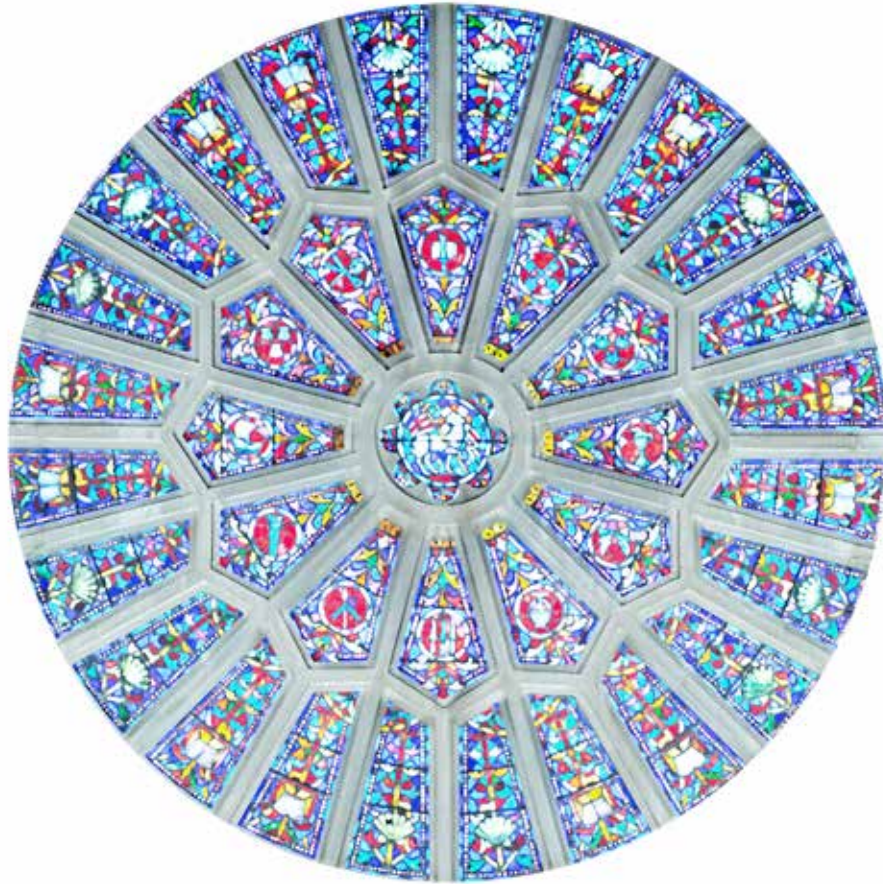
CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4pm | Service for all ages
8 & 10pm | Traditional Services

NEW YEARS EVE
**TRADITIONAL
BRASS
WATCHNIGHT
SERVICE**

Sunday, December 31
9 & 10:30am Worship Services

BAKER MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A traditional church for a modern world



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

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