

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CARILLON

November 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor Mary's Message . . .	1
Finance	2
Children & Family	3
Youth	4
Young Adults	5
Baker News	5, 6
Missions	7
Calendar	9
Staff	10

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

God Takes Pleasure in a Cheerful Giver

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

—2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NRSV)

I have often been a little puzzled by this passage from 2 Corinthians. Sometimes when I read it, it seems to say that the most important thing about giving is to be able to give with a smile. It almost seems to say that it doesn't matter what we give, so long as we choose how much to give, and then give it cheerfully. It seems to imply that we can give almost nothing to God's work. So long as we're happy about it, God will love us.

I don't think that is what Paul was trying to say. First, God's love isn't conditional. God loves everyone. God doesn't decide how much to love each person based on how cheerful they are to give. Second, the biblical norm was to tithe, which is to give 10% of one's harvest or income to God's work. Paul had high expectations for followers of Christ. It's hard to imagine him setting a low standard of generosity here. Third, in the context of this passage Paul isn't talking about tithing. He is asking the church in Corinth to go beyond their assumed first level giving and generously provide additional support for people in need.

So what does it mean that God loves a cheerful giver?

Writing this article in October, just before Halloween, provides some insight. I think about the kids that will soon come to my door to trick-or-treat. Some children will come to the door and carefully choose one piece of candy, looking for just the right delight to



Two of Baker's own cheerful givers at the Northern Illinois Foodbank

Continued on page 2.

PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

add to their growing collection. Others will come to the door and without a second thought grab any piece and run as quickly as possible to the next house to get more. Some will say thank-you, others won't. Some will ask shyly if they can take two, others will assume my generosity and

God experiences a special pleasure when a person of faith comes along whose generous heart is in full view.

take a handful. However, the ones I will remember the most are the ones who genuinely aren't thinking of themselves. These little ones take a piece of candy and then delightedly run back to

parents or older siblings and give it away with a big smile. There aren't many kids like this. They are often the youngest ones out for one of their first or second Halloween adventure. They are a special delight because it seems like their naturally generous, uncomplicated hearts are in full view. I love all of the kids on Halloween, but I experience a little more joy in my own heart when I encounter these most generous little ones.

The Amplified version of the Bible implies that Paul

may be saying something similar about God. One of the translations of the phrase, "God loves a cheerful giver" is, "God takes pleasure in a cheerful giver." God loves all people whether they give generously or not; whether they give happily, fearfully, or grudgingly. However, God experiences a special pleasure when a person of faith comes along whose generous heart is in full view. This is a person who has placed their trust in God to provide an abundance. This is a person who reflects God's love to people in need. This is a person who is being re-formed into God's image. This person is living proof that God's way is being lived in the world. God takes a special pleasure in encountering this faithful person in the act of generous giving.

Paul reminds us that, like the kids that come to the door on Halloween, the condition of our heart is on display as we receive and as we give. Being a truly cheerful and generous giver, is a visible sign that the Spirit of God has taken up residence within our heart. Thus, cheerful giving not only brings joy to the world, but a special delight to God who guides us.

In Christ –
Pastor Mary

FINANCE COMMITTEE CORNER

2017 YTD Financial Information

The finance team is currently working on the 2018 budget for Baker Memorial United Methodist Church. We have received all of the budget requests, and thank each and every group for their diligent work for the 2018 budget season. We are blessed to have a church that is fully staffed along with a growing youth ministry.

A primary component to finalizing the budget for the coming year is the Stewardship drive. Each member should have received their pledge card in the mail along with a spiritual message from Pastor Mary. The finance committee along with each of the committees that help operate our church ask you to prayerfully consider your contributions for 2018. We feel strongly that showing your commitment through pledging will lead us to meeting our goals of a growing budget to match our growing church.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the current mission of the finance committee. Our team thanks you not only for your monetary contributions to this church but for all the ways you help us spread God's message in our community.

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.



Children & Family Ministries

THANKFULNESS

November is a month when families plan to gather together. Families have many ways to show their expressions of thankfulness for God's blessings. Some write it down, others sing songs or play games. If your family is not one to sing or play together, it's not too late to start a new routine. A family who is grateful will be filled with joy.

I am blessed and filled with joy this year as I have had the pleasure of working side by side with our children, parents, and families of Baker Church during Sunday and Wednesday night programs. I am so thankful to have Vicki McVey, Jane Fanslow, Danielle Helland, Loretta Wilson, and Greg Pratt who all interacted and engaged our children in Sunday school last month. I truly appreciate all of our shepherds: Toni Peck, Courtney Fredrickson, Ginny and Sara Swiatek. Their guidance, patience, and support help our children achieve and explore knowledge of the Bible.

Thanksgiving began as a feast between the Pilgrims and Native Americans. The Pilgrims blessed God for safe passage over the ocean and the Native Americans taught them how to survive in their new land. God also instructed

the Israelites to celebrate different feasts and take time to thank him. Jesus thanked God often and taught us to do this through Communion. I encourage you to celebrate and praise God every day, all day. It can be difficult and a challenge to be thankful during some days, months, or perhaps seasons. Remember, God loves you and reminds us to be thankful at those times for Jesus, friends, and faith.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

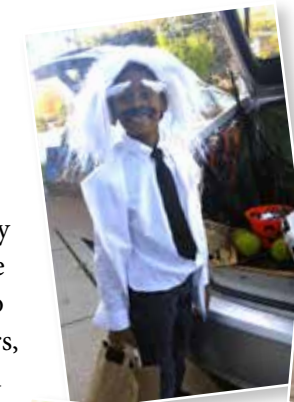
- **Wednesday Nights** | Baker Kids | 6pm
- **Sunday School** | November | Ten Commandments
- **Sunday School** | December | Celebrate the Birth of Jesus
- **Saturday, December 2** | 9am | Santa Breakfast
- **Sunday, December 24** | 4pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight service for all ages.

FAMILY BIBLE VERSE "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." —Psalm 100:4 NIV

Blessings and Joy,
Shelly Stienbarger

SPOOKTACULAR TUNES & TREATS

It was a full house Sunday for the Spooktacular event with over 70 excited individuals of all ages. Larry Dieffenbach played a wide variety of tunes including music from Discipale Me 2, "Happy", The Moano Theme Song, "How Far Ill Go", "Beauty and the Beast", Phantom of the Opera", and Popeye the Sailor Man". The custom parade was led by two gigantic dinosaurs mixed in with Disney characters, Johnny Appleseed, Albert Einstein, etc. Thank you to everyone for your help! We had 15 people who decorated their trunks for trick or treaters..., extra volunteers who donated candy, background support who blocked off parking spots. Thanks to everyone who came to enjoy the organ. See you next year!



Youth Ministry

This month, the young people will gather for what has become a BakerYouth tradition, sleeping out under the stars. In previous years, we raised money supporting DuPage county's Sleep Out Saturday initiative. We would go out and get about forty or fifty pumpkin boxes and a ton of duct tape. On Saturday night, the young people would converge on the Baker Memorial front lawn and run amok in chili, snacks and sleepless silliness. But why do we continue the tradition, even without the fundraising and cardboard boxes? I'm glad you asked.

Let's start with homelessness. Homelessness is one of those things that looks totally different than most people imagine. Many envision someone living under a bridge in a cardboard box, having little or nothing to eat and only the clothes on their back. There may be a lack of hygiene or possible mental health illnesses accompanying this image and while some homelessness looks exactly like this, the vast majority looks like the people you see at school and church each week. In fact, I was surprised to hear the other day from school officials that the number of homeless young people in our area numbers over one thousand.

The other reason we continue with this event is because the work is so close to my heart. A little over seven years ago, my family arrived in Saint Charles with the goal of rebuilding a church a few blocks from Baker Memorial. Our plan included living frugally for months in order to pour the money back into the church. Though we had savings and an income when we arrived, we were technically homeless. We lived in the basement of the church we pastored, while searching for something with affordable rent. After a few months, we found a place and moved in, but the experience of being home insecure was memorable.



So, on November 4th, our young people will get to have some fun and also discuss the important issue of housing insecurity in our area. Why do they need to know? Because you can not minister to the needs of your community if you do not know what they are. We will use tents because they are more indicative of what people struggling against homelessness in modern times use, but we'll also have some fun, watch a movie, eat some good food and fellowship together. We will even have food from Northern Illinois Food Bank for them to work at making a meal with. My prayer is that it proves a fun, memorable and formational experience.

Grace and peace,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry



Young Adult Ministry

HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

Our planned Habitat for Humanity project day was rained out, but we have plenty more events coming up. We have a committee meeting on November 1st and you're invited to come out and help us plan for the next quarter. Later in the month, we will all converge on some unsuspecting neighborhood and share food, fellowship and play some games. If none of that resonates, we also have a bi-monthly Bible study, opportunities to participate in the upcoming youth Work Trip and tons of things to volunteer for and do at Baker Memorial.

Why do I bring up all of these different events and opportunities for involvement? Because many of you did not grow up in a family that attended Methodist services on a regular basis. You were not steeped in the language and customs of church. Christianese does not come easy to you and explaining what church is and why it is important is still a challenge. Grappling with all of this causes some to check out, but causes others to suppress their personality in order to fit in with what they see as normal. That latter tendency is one that stifles the growth and authenticity of a church.

Ask the UMC

WHAT DOES 'COMMUNION OF SAINTS' MEAN?

Every time Christians say the Apostles' Creed, we profess belief in the communion of saints. The term "communion of saints" refers to the whole community of faithful followers of Christ, living and dead, past, present and future.

Rev. Katie Shockley explains, "When we gather in worship, we praise God with believers we cannot see. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we feast with past, present and future disciples of Christ. We experience the communion of saints, the community of believers—living and dead. This faith community stretches beyond space and time. We commune with Christians around the world, believers who came before us, and believers who will come after us. We believe that the church is the communion of saints, and as a believer, you belong to the communion of saints."

Orthodox Christians regularly use icons depicting the saints as physical reminders that all saints are truly present.

All Saints Day is a time when we remember Christians of

A little while ago, I was looking up the definition of carillon, trying to understand what it is we do each month with these articles and what their significance is in the Methodist tradition. The googles did not have much about Methodist tradition, but it did have a lot on how a carillon is "a set of bells in a tower, played using a keyboard or by an automatic mechanism." It got me thinking about the way in which we all produce a unique sound. Everyone will not be the same. To some this seems like a challenge, but it really is a blessing. It is the way God builds a church.

He calls us all to embrace a religion less about imposing our expectations on others and more about helping people find the freedom that Christ gives. What is your sound? Are you ringing true as God made you? Planning may be your frequency, or building houses, or cooking food, or playing wild board games. Put it all together and our individual chimes will ring out in harmony. How does that sound to you?

Grace and peace,

Carl King

Director of Young Adult Ministry

every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully, shared their faith and point us to the way of Christ through the witness of their lives. Shockley goes on, "The saints in our lives inspire us to live in holiness and righteousness." On All Saints Day, many churches read the names of church members and loved ones who died in the past year. *This content was produced by InfoServ, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*



A little bigger problem than a church mouse... a raccoon made it's way into one of Baker Memorial's very deep window wells. Thanks to Phil Zavitz and a few other church members, the critter was successfully removed. Phil is a former Kane County Animal Control Officer and the right man for the job!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER THIS MONTH

- November 1: Italian Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Roasted Broccoli and Carrots, Kale Salad and Vegetable Soup
- November 8: Amish Breakfast Casserole, Yogurt Parfait, Apple Cinnamon French Toast, Fruit and Muffins.
- November 15: Guest Chef Paul Conterato serves Ham & Squash
- November 29: Sandy's Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Tossed Salad and Lentil-Vegetable Soup



COLLECTING FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Miriam Circle invites Baker members and friends to participate in Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collecting and Packing.

Please consider donating gift items for our boxes (see suggested items below) or monetary donations. The cost to ship a box is \$9 and we plan to pack at least 60 boxes. Please make checks payable to *UMW*.

Gift and money collection will take place Sunday, November 5, 12 and 19 between services in Baker Hall
Suggested Gift Ideas:

- Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.
- School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- Hygiene Items: toothbrush, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.
- Other: T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)
- A Personal Note: In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

Please do *not* include: toothpaste, candy, used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans

For more information, go to: samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/

Join us! Everyone is invited to donate and/or pack at Miriam Circle's Shoebox Packing Party— children, youth, adults and friends— on Sunday, November 19, from noon to 1:30pm in Wiley Hall.

Questions? Please contact Sarah Hardwick 630-513-9138 or Jennifer Swenson 630-621-8362

KAIROS TORCH MENTORING OPPORTUNITY

Kairos Torch is a Christian centered mentoring program that is conducted with an ecumenical Christian Team. Our Team is serving the Illinois Youth Correctional Center (IYC) in St. Charles.

DATE: Thursday November 9, 2017

TIME: 7-9pm

Baker Memorial UM Church, in the Parlor

The program begins with the volunteer members of the Torch Team participating in a Torch Weekend that includes twenty hours of interaction with the young men to help them understand themselves and introduce them to Jesus. Immediately following the Torch Weekend each young man will be mentored.

There are also opportunities to be a prayer partner, bake cookies, help with supplies, help in the kitchen or become part of the weekend retreat.

Torch is a part of Kairos, a successful Prison Ministry since 1979.

Please consider attending an informational presentation and find out what God may be calling you into

Contact Information: Joshua Fredrickson, 630-926-7833 or jpfredrickson@yahoo.com

UMM: MEN'S FOOTBALL FELLOWSHIP

Men's Football Fellowship will meet in the Parlor at noon to watch the Bears take on the Green Bay Packers, Sunday, November 12, 11:30am to 3:30pm. 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 at 224-605-8121 or NIUHuskies50@gmail.com.

MISSIONS CORNER

Opportunities for Service

CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED BULLETIN BOARD!

Check out our bulletin board outside the church office. It explains the Rainbow Covenant giving of Baker Memorial in detail.

Next month, the Mission Outreach team will be sending the monies earned from fundraisers throughout the year and funds collected in the offering plate to the Northern Illinois Conference. We, as a congregation, have achieved our goal of collecting \$2500 to be in a covenant relationship with Clara Biswas, missionary to Cambodia (purple band).

The giving does not stop there! To be a Rainbow Covenant Church, donations need to be given to all bands every year. We, as a church, support at least one ministry in each of the six bands. We are indeed a Rainbow Covenant church again!

THANKS FOR THE PINTS

The Hearland Blood Drive was a huge success! Many thanks to those that gave blood! The turnout was the best we have had in several years, with 27 pints collected! Hallelujah!

'STUFF THE TURKEY' THROUGH THE 12TH

Stuff the Turkey through November 12 in Baker Hall during fellowship hour. Please help support the Tri-City Salvation Army. Your donation will provide a \$20 food vouchers for local families. Checks must be made payable to Baker Memorial UMC or cash may be placed in a blue offering envelope marked "Stuff the Turkey".

Contact: Loretta Wilson at 630-975-5455.



INTERESTED IN THE 2018 ADULT MISSION TRIP?

Habitat for Humanity Adult Mission Trip to New Orleans will be April 22-29, 2018. This will be our ninth trip to help build homes that were devastated by Katrina! Construction volunteers are the foundation of 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 3 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!

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE FOR MISSIONS

Our Christmas Tree Sale runs November 19-December 3. Order your high quality, reasonably priced trees by visiting the table in Baker Hall at 10am on Sundays. Proceeds will benefit Mission Outreach Ministries. Many thanks to Dave & Loretta for their gift of trees every year for mission!

Contact: Dave Wilson at 708-302-9090.

ANGEL TREE TAGS ARE AVAILABLE

Salvation Army Angel Tree Tags will be in Baker Hall for the taking. We have secured 75 tags with requests from children. Collected items will be on display in the toy shop on December 15 at the Salvation Army for parents to come in and shop for Christmas. Gifts are, therefore, not to be wrapped. Place gifts in a plastic bag, attach the Angel Tag and return on December 3 to Baker Hall.

LAST MONTH AT NIL FOOD BANK

Volunteers sorted and packed more than 10,000 pounds of Wisconsin-grown onions at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on a recent Saturday morning. From each 2,000 pound crate, the onions were packed into 5-pound bags, which were loaded onto pallets ready to be distributed to pantries and soup kitchens throughout a 13 county area. A big thank you to all who helped. We will plan another evening or weekend volunteer date in the Spring, in addition to the regular once-a-month NIFB morning volunteer date every third Monday of the month.



Christmas family fun!



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
9AM | WILEY HALL**

**TICKETS: \$5 per person (ages 4 and up)
or \$20 per *immediate* family**

Includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, milk, oj, coffee,
photo with Santa and a take home craft.

**PURCHASE TICKETS NOVEMBER 5-26
AT SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP OR IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

Contact Jaime Sjogren with questions at drdance@sbcglobal.net

BAKERMEMORIALCHURCH.ORG

UMM MEN'S BREAKFAST

7:30AM | 3RD SUNDAYS

All men of the church
and their friends are invited
to gather for food, fellowship
and a featured speaker.



COMMUNITY SING IN CELEBRATION OF ALL SAINTS DAY

*You are invited to sing
Gabriel Faure's Requiem*

NOVEMBER 5 AT 3 PM


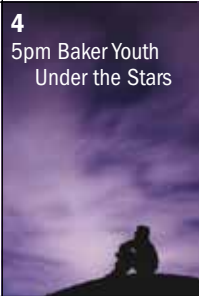



COME & SING—OR JUST LISTEN!

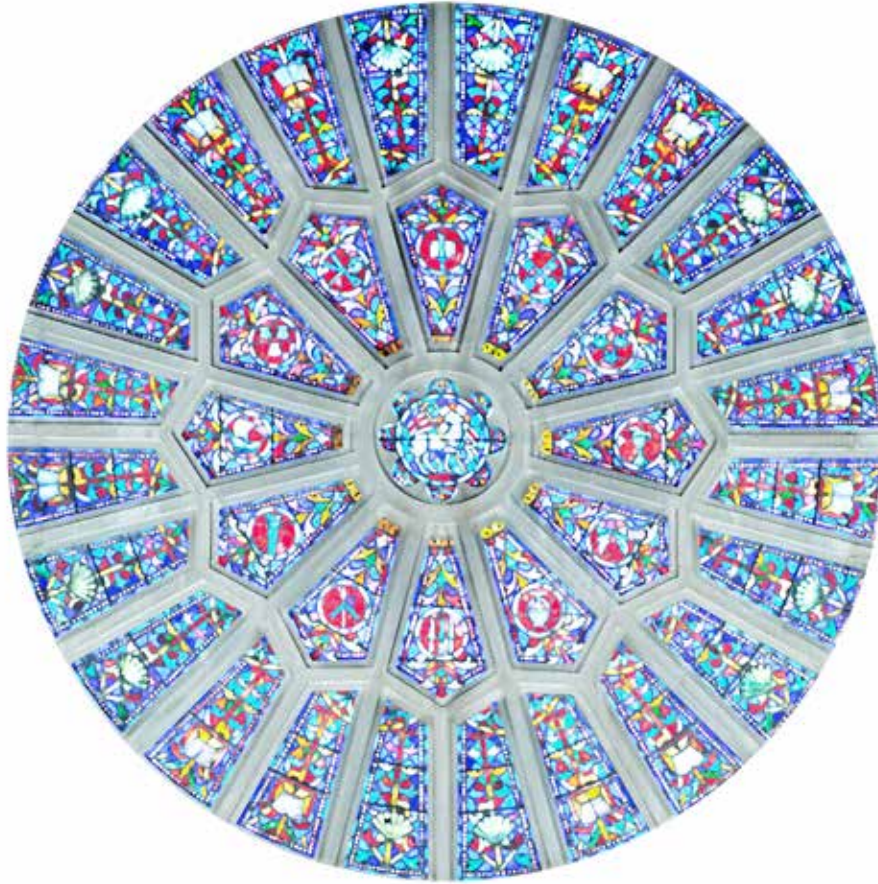
Led by Jeffrey Hunt, Director of Music Ministry

*Organists: Mark Edwards from Baker Memorial UMC,
Larry Dieffenbach from The Little Home Church by the Wayside
and Joshua McClure from Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Soloists: Jeanne Fornari and Antonio Quaranta

NOVEMBER 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 Confirmation 6pm Chancel Bells</p>	<p>11:30am Day Guest Lunch</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>
			<p>1 9am UMW Leadership Meeting 11:30am DBTP 6:30pm DBTP 7pm Missions 7pm Mindful Moments</p>	<p>2 7:30am FaithFriends 6:30pm Wesley Challenge</p>	<p>3 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	<p>4 5pm Baker Youth Under the Stars</p> 
<p>5 Daylight Saving Time Ends 3pm All Saints All Sing Service 6:30pm High School Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>6 8:30am Lifeline Screening 11:30am FaithFriends 1pm One O'Clock Book Club 7pm Staff Parish</p>		<p>8 11:30am DBTP 6pm Confirmation Packing Party 6:30pm DBTP 6:30pm Young Adult Study</p>	<p>9 7:30am FaithFriends 6:30pm Wesley Challenge 6:30pm PEO 7pm Kairos Torch Prison Ministry</p>	<p>10 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	<p>11 Vetvans Day 9am Baptism Class</p>
<p>12 10:30am Welcome New Members 12pm Have-A-Look Membership Class 1pm Men's Ensemble @Hunt Club Village 2pm Sisterhood DBTP</p>	<p>13 9:30am SHIP Help for Seniors 11:30am FaithFriends 7pm Trustees</p>	<p>14 9am Phoebe Circle 3:30pm Lazarus House Cooking 7pm Children & Family Ministry</p>	<p>15 11:30am DBTP 6:30pm DBTP 7pm Mindful Moments</p>	<p>16 7:30am FaithFriends 1pm Woman's Emmaus</p>	<p>17 9am Indoor Farmer's Market</p>	
<p>19 7:30am UMM Men's Breakfast 12pm Miriam Circle Shoebox Packing 2pm Sisterhood DBTP 6:30pm Middle School Fellowship</p>	<p>20 Carillon Articles Due for next month 9am NIL Food Bank 11:30am FaithFriends 7pm Church Council</p>	<p>21 5pm Woman's Emmaus</p>	<p>22 11:30am DBTP 1:30pm Sarah-Ruth Circle 6:30pm Young Adult Study</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Church office closed</p>	<p>24 Church office closed</p>	<p>25 5pm Tree of Hope & Electric Christmas Parade</p>
<p>26 2pm Sisterhood DBTP</p>	<p>27 11:30am FaithFriends 7pm Worship & Spiritual Growth</p>	<p>28 7pm Lydia Circle 7pm Youth Council Meeting</p>	<p>29 11:30am DBTP 6:30pm DBTP</p>	<p>30 7:30am FaithFriends 5pm Advent Set Up</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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