

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CARILLON

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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

The deadline for submitting items to the *The Carillon* is the 20th of the month.



PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Learning to Read

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

—2 Timothy 2:15 (NRSV)

In our Wesleyan tradition, the Scriptures (called the word of truth above) are the key foundation of our understanding of God and faithful living. We have many ways of growing in spiritual understanding, including experiencing the grace of God through prayer, and discovering new understanding through the gift of reason. However, the Bible is always the ground of our faith understanding.



Unfortunately, the Bible can be quite a challenge to read and understand. We actually need to learn to read in a different way than we are taught in school.

Reading the Bible is a necessary part of our faith growth. It is after all the foundation of our faith understanding.

and workings of God and helps us understand how to live faithfully with God now and forever. Therefore, we need to read it with the right objective in mind. Just like you wouldn't read a science book as history, we won't get much out of reading the Bible as a novel. So the first thing about learning to read the Bible is to come to it with our hearts, minds and souls seeking to grow closer to God.

A second thing about reading the Bible is to remember that it isn't actually a single book. It's more like a small library bound together between two covers. God is the single

Continued on page 2.

PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

inspiration for all of the writing, but the actual words, stories and experiences are seen through the eyes of dozens of writers across well over 1000 years of human life. God gave us multiple perspectives on some aspects of life. For

...a second thing about learning to read the Bible is to realize that we might read the same thing twice, and need to ponder how the different perspectives help us gain a wider or deeper understanding of God and ourselves.

example there are multiple Gospels, and multiple passages about how the earth was created. In fact there are two passages about creation placed back to back in the beginning of the book of Genesis. They do not match in a scientific way, but they bear the same witness about the relationship between God and the earth, as well as God and

humanity. They reveal the same God a little differently. We need both of them. Neither would be sufficient on their own. Thus, a second thing about learning to read the Bible is to realize that we might read the same thing twice, and need to ponder how the different perspectives help us gain a wider or deeper understanding of God and ourselves.

A third thing to remember as we open our most important book is that it is ancient. These words were recorded 1000's of year ago. Even the newest parts are almost 2000 years. In some ways, the world was a vastly different place. Most people were illiterate, so the Bible was written by a small representation of all of humankind. For example, there are few if any women writers, because very few women could read and write. Also, we need to remember that news traveled slowly without electronic media. A good example of this is the birth of Jesus. Why didn't everyone know about it if angels came and sang? Well, without newspapers, Instagram, or on-the-spot TV interviews, how could they know about something that seems to have happened in the middle of the night in a small town? We may have the only way of knowing. People were inspired to write it down. We need to remember that these are ancient writings, so historical events often can't be tied to specific days or even years because records have been lost or often weren't recorded at all. In addition, we need to remember that households functioned differently with strong gender specific roles, and the economic

environment was completely different with patronage being an expected practice. All of these things mean that we need to learn to read slowly, and carefully. Our minds need to wonder what words might have intended to communicate then, so we can hear a similar message for today. Reading the Bible isn't about completing a task, it's about encountering the God who inspired the words.

Reading the Bible is a necessary part of our faith growth. It is after all the foundation of our faith understanding. However, it isn't simple reading. Even the most practiced reader doesn't understand it in full, because it isn't meant to be fully grasped. It's meant to be a revelation of God to the one who seeks God by reading it.

Our next all-church journey into the Bible begins the week of March 1. We'll be reading about how God worked through the Hebrew people to form a faithful nation, but more than that we'll discover how God works through us today to help us live faithfully. Please join a group. There are groups meeting almost every day of the week. Learning to read our most important book is a life changing, faith forming experience. You really don't want to miss this opportunity to learn to read.

In Christ
Pastor Mary

Immerse: Kingdoms Begins in March



Reading the Bible alone can be a challenge, so join an Immerse Bible Discussion Group and read it in the comfortable company of others. All are invited, even if you haven't been to either of the previous Immerse discussion groups.

Groups will begin meeting the first week of March. The book we'll be using for this session is *Immerse: Kingdoms*. It covers the fascinating, challenging, and insightful process of God's chosen people entering the promised land and becoming a nation.

There are many insights to be found, but only if you choose to participate. There are groups almost every day of the week. Sign up between services in Baker Hall, at <https://tinyurl.com/immersekingdoms> or contact Alan McCurdy at 847-309-6904 or amccurdy@valdeseng.com.

Children & Family Ministries

SHARING THE HEART OF CHRIST

► **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 CEB, Deep Blue Kids Bible

It's that time again when we see hearts and pictures of cupid on everything and everywhere. I might not be the lovey-dovey type, but I would shout it from the mountain top that I love you God. You might even hear me sing *Jesus Loves Me* too. It is true to me that love, love, love is all you need to do when life gets tough or especially when life is good. We love, because God first loved us. It's also one of the first things we learned when we went to Sunday school. We teach this to our children too. In fact, we just talked about this last week in Sunday school and every week. It's true that Jesus loves you.

In my household, we are focusing on sharing the heart of Christ to our neighbors, friends, and family. It sounds simple and easy, but can you love others when they are angry or mad? First, I wrote the message *Jesus loves you* on every mirror in our house as a reminder how to start out our day to be God's love for others. Side note, I started this new loving mission in January. Please ask me how I have done to hold me accountable. Each night, we talked to each

other how we loved others, or struggled. Finding love and being the love for others involved shoveling snow for a neighbor, helping an angry sister with homework, listening to others, etc. Thank you God for loving us.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **3-7 years** | *Leaders of the Community* | Judges 4:4-16; 1Samuel 16:1-23; 2Kings 5:1-9; 2Kings 22:1-23:23
- **8-12 years** | *Wisdom* | Matthew 7:24
- **Wednesday Night Baker Kid's** | 6-7:30pm
- **Wednesday, February 5** | Family First | 6-7:30pm | Theme: Loving Family Crafts
- **Saturday, February 15** | Kid's Movie Night In & Parent's Date Night Out | 6-8:30pm

THANK YOU!

- **January Teachers:** Becky Crow, Ginny Swiatek, Chrissy Farley, Danielle Helland, & Renee Whittenhall
- **January Shepherds:** BethAnn Fitzgerald, Kristine Torio, & Kim Masters
- **Nursery:** Danni Killian, Catherine & Jade Rosenquist
- **Praise & Worship:** Melissa Arndt & Brooke Bayless
- **Baker Kid's:** Maggie Rivera



Youth Ministry

Lock-Ins, services and singing, oh my! Every month is packed with events and this one is no different for Baker Youth. Confirmation continues full throttle with classes on sacraments, faith, and explorations of service projects. In the midst of all this, we have two lock-ins scheduled—high schoolers from January 31-February 1 and middle schoolers the next week, February 7-8. Each of these events is RSVP, so make sure your young person has sent in an email, text or phone call to confirm how many people they are bringing. Let's see how many friends we can get out to these lock-ins. With the overnight events this month, youth fellowship is on an altered schedule. Be sure to check your 5-Point Weekend Update and the yellow calendar sheet each Sunday for details of any changes.

During the 9am and 10:30am services on Sunday, February 9, our young people will take on a greater role in the music, scripture reading and share their faith experiences. We want your young person to be a part of this service as a liturgist, usher, or greeter. Email cking@bakermemorialchurch.org to sign them up.

January was a tremendous time of faith-growing, games, and worship at the Arctic Blast retreat in Wisconsin, fortunately we have another opportunity to get away as a group. On July 5-11, we are going on our annual summer service project—the 2020 Work Trip. Following the 9am service on Sunday, February 9, we will hold a brief information session with all of the important information about this exciting chance to get away with fellow youth to learn new skills, eat new foods and visit local sights. We will meet in the Youth Center at 10:05am.

In Christ,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry

SAVE THE DATE

- **Middle School Lock-In** | February 7-8
- **2020 Work Trip meeting** | Sunday, February 9 at 10:05am in the Youth Center
- **High School Fellowship** | First and third Sundays at 4pm
- **Middle School Fellowship** | Second and fourth Sundays at 4pm (Note: no meeting February 9)
- **2020 Youth Work Trip** | July 5-11



The Arctic Blast retreat in Wisconsin was a blast!

Young Adult Ministry

We in the Young Adult Ministry send a special thank you to everyone who donated a coat, gloves, scarf, hand warmers, foot warmers or just prayed for us as we distributed warm gear in the city. The coat and glove drive was a project close to our hearts because as the scripture says, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected.” Our congregation has been given much and it always feels great to engage with the “near” part of our here, near and far away mission.

Last month we attempted to host a murder mystery dinner and the attendance was not sufficient to pull it off. This month we’re giving it another shot on either February 13th or 20th but need to know from you at your earliest convenience. E-mails went out and now we await your response. In the meantime, join us on Saturday, February 8 at 4pm at 100 Grapes to continue our outreach efforts in town and to provide an opportunity for you to meet up and

talk faith. It’s alright if you come late, too. We’ll be there until around 5:30pm.

Finally, in preparation for our March calendar, we are going to shift Immerse to Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. If you were a part of our last few groups, or want to join fresh we are going to meet up after Wednesday worship and dive in to the scriptures. Exact room information and further details will be forthcoming, but mark your calendar now and know you are welcome!

Blessings,
Carl King
Director of Young Adult Ministry

P.S. If you’re involved in the Church Mouse Ministry, the cards for college students are ready and available outside of my office. Stop by during business hours or after church to pick some up for your student.

Road to GC2020 Conversation

The United Methodist General Conference will be meeting in Minneapolis from May 5-15. This is a very important global gathering for the church which will hopefully determine how the UMC will organize in the future. If you would like to attend a briefing on the process and possible on potential legislation, please plan to attend one of the following open sessions organized by Bishop Dyck and the Northern Illinois Conference.

- **Sunday, February 2** | 3-5pm | River Forest UMC, 7970 Lake St., River Forest
- **Thursday, February 13** | 3-5pm | Woodridge UMC, 2700 75th St., Woodridge
- **Thursday, February 13** | 7-9pm | Our Savior’s, 701 E. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg
- **Sunday, February 16** | 3-5pm | Christ UMC, 4509 Highcrest Rd., Rockford

Drive and Serve

Baker’s Day Guest Ministry is working to serve our greater community by providing rides to those in need. Contact the church office if you are available during the day or evening to provide transportation to appointments (including doctor appointments or night shelter).

Join the *Feed the Need* Packing Event!

Feed The Need!™ Illinois is the largest volunteer coalition of religious, education, civic, corporate and community organizations in the Kane/DuPage/Will county area, joining in shared mission to fight the ravages of global hunger. Baker Memorial’s congregation is joining this effort by packing meals for the Northern Illinois Food Bank at North Central College in Naperville. Our time slots are: Saturday, February 12 from 12-2pm and Sunday from 12:30-2:30pm. For more information, call Lynette Drummer (630-452-5555) or Alan McCurdy (847-309-6904). Sign up at feedtheneedillinois.org.

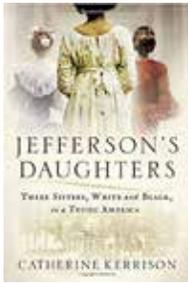
Capital Campaign News

PHASE I: Church Door Meetings

Please see the schedule of meetings on the first phase of the capital campaign that focuses on church doors. We welcome your suggestions and ideas. All meetings will be held in Wiley Hall.

- **Wednesday, February 5** | 5pm
- **Thursday, February 6** | 6:30pm
- **Sunday, February 9** | 10:30am

One O'Clock Book Group This Month



This book discussion group meets in the Parlor at 1pm on the first Monday of each month (except Labor Day).

The selection for March 2 is *Jefferson's Daughters* by Catherine Kerrison. This deeply researched history contrasts the privileged upbringing of Jefferson's two acknowledged daughters with his wife

Martha and the shadowy life of the daughter born to his mistress, the enslaved Sally Hemings. Drawing on letters and journals, Kerrison presents an intimate portrait of a powerful man and his daughters through their respective paths to womanhood at a time of change and tumult that nonetheless held to racial and sexual restrictions and brilliantly recaptures the patterns of Southern women's lives. 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.

UMW February News

- **Please Return UMW Books.** All members who have a UMW Reading Book checked out of the church library, please return it to the library by Sunday, February 2. We need to have all books available to redistribute for the UMW leadership team meeting on February 5.
- **UMW Leadership Team** meets on Wednesday, February 5 at 9am in the Parlor.

- The **UMW Valentine Bake Sale** is on Sunday, February 9 between services in Baker Hall. Buy your sweetie a sweet! Drop off home made donations by 9am.

- **UMW Bunco** is a fun way to spend a Winter afternoon! Join us on Sunday, February 9 from 2-4pm in Wiley Hall. There is a sign-up

sheet on the UMW bulletin board or call Marge Meanger at 630-584-9582.

- **Phoebe Circle** meets on Wednesday, February 12 at 9am in the church kitchen. We will be setting up and cooking for our Phoebe Stew fundraiser that evening at 5pm.
- **Sarah Ruth Circle** meets on February 26 at 1pm in the parlor. Virginia Kammerer will be talking about her newly published book.
- **Esther Circle** meets Saturday, February 15 at 8:30am
- **Lydia Circle** does not meet this month.



What was all that digging about? Some long needed drainage improvements were recently completed on the Cedar Street side of the building. Until now, the downspouts from our roof have drained across the sidewalks and into what is now our handicapped accessible parking. A drainage system was installed along the full width of the system to drain the downspouts into the city's drainage system.

Wednesday Night Supper This Month

The WNS crew is cooking up delicious meals on Wednesday nights and serving from 5-6pm. Carryouts are available. Here's what being served in February:

- **February 5** | Roast chicken and roasted winter vegetables
- **February 12** | Phoebe Circle cooks beef stew, salads, and Valentine desserts | All proceeds go to the youth's Summer work trip | Serving 5-6:30pm
- **February 19** | Creamy herb pork chops and potatoes
- **February 26** | Chicken fajitas, black beans, and rice

UMM Superbowl Party

Ready for some football? United Methodist Men invites all men and women to watch the Super Bowl in the church parlor. The event kicks off at 5pm on Sunday, February 2. Pizza will be provided for a \$5 donation. Feel free to bring a favorite snack to share!

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.



MISSIONS CORNER

Opportunities to Serve or Contribute

WE HAVE RAINBOW COVENANT STATUS IN 2019

Mission Outreach is pleased to report that our church has supported all the bands needed to be a 2019 Rainbow Covenant Church. Over \$5,000 was given to six bands; Hesus House in Aurora, Tree of Life Ministry in South Dakota, Midwest Distribution Center, UMCOR Sager Brown, a senior border ministry in Bolivia and the largest portion to our missionary Clara Midrula Biswas in Cambodia. We selected these ministries keeping in mind our own mission statement of *Here, Near and Far Away!* These funds came from special offerings, our budget for Missions, and Mission fundraisers. We plan to continue supporting these areas and more in 2020 highlighting the ministries to the congregation on a continual basis.

SUITCASES, BACKPACKS & GIFT CARDS FOR CASA

Kids in our area need our help! The entire month of March we will be collecting gift cards, suitcases and incidentals for kids infant to aged 21 in the CASA Kane County program.

Imagine a child having to leave their home and face months or years of court because of their home situation! The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program trains advocates to help, staying with them during this critical time in a child's life time. Most of us cannot commit to the time needed to be a CASA, but we can make the transition easier for these kids with our generosity! See the list below and bring items on Sundays in March. Drop off at the Missions table in Baker Hall at 10am.

List of Items Needed...

- Backpacks and luggage (new)
- Gift cards in any amount (Target, Walmart, Aldi. Or fast food gift cards such as McDonalds and Subway)
- Public transportation vouchers (Pace, Ventra and Uber)
- Park district passes from Aurora and Elgin
- Movie passes (AMC and Goodrich theaters)

JOIN US AT THE FOOD BANK THIS MONTH

The next Northern Illinois Food Bank volunteer date is February 17 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

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Thanks for donating blood in January and helping Baker Memorial make the needed contributions to saving lives! Thank you to our organizer Pete Holmes!

NEW ORLEANS MINISTRY COMES TO AN END AFTER A DECADE!

After serving 10 years in New Orleans, after the devastation of Katrina, the team has decided to serve elsewhere in 2020. You may remember our successful auction in the Fall that earned the Adult Mission Team over \$5,000. The good news is that we now have a fund to begin new ministries as they arise. A more local 2-night trip to Chatham is being planned and will be announced as soon as we have secured a date—most likely in early summer or fall. The hope is that some will join us that did not have the opportunity to before!

Over 30 people served over the 10 years and made contributions to probably 40 plus homes during the 10 years! The team took on many jobs such as siding, framing, painting, roofing, caulking, floor joists, wood flooring, laminate flooring, tiling, decking, building porches and more! If you know of someone who served with Habitat for Humanity or Camp Hope in New Orleans take a minute to thank them for their service. Thank you to each and every person that traveled to serve, that helped with fundraisers and contributed to the fund. We look forward to seeing where God sends us next!



FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9am Worship 9am Sunday School: Children, Middle & High School 10:30am Jazz Worship 10:30am Confirmation	7pm Scout Troop 14 11:30am Monday Faith Friends	11:30am Day Guest Lunch 11:30am Kiwanis 1:30pm Staff Meeting 8pm Alcoholics Anonymous	5pm Wednesday Night Supper 5pm Chapel Choir & Wesley Singers 6pm Wed. Worship 6pm Chancel Bells 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm Faith Friends	11:30am Day Guest Lunch 7:30am Thursday Morning Faith Friends		NOTE: The first row of items occur every week and will not appear on daily listings (except in case of schedule change)
					31 <div style="background-color: #d8bfd8; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">6pm-8am High School Lock-In</div>	1 12-3pm Young Adult Coat Giveaway <i>off-site</i>
2 10:30am Adult Sunday School 4pm HS Fellowship 5pm UMM Superbowl Party	3 1pm One O'Clock Book Club 7pm Spiritual Formation & Discipleship	4	5 9am UMW Leadership Meeting 6pm Family First 6:30pm Blueprint for Discipleship	6	7 9am Indoor Farmer's Market <div style="background-color: #f080f0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">6pm-8am Middle School Lock-In</div>	8 4pm Young Adults @100 Grapes
9 Youth Participation Sunday 10am UMW Valentine Bake Sale 10:30am Adult Sunday School 2pm UMW Bunco	10	11 3:30pm Laz House Cooking	12 9am Phoebe Circle 5pm Phoebe Stew Fundraiser 6pm Baker Kids 6:30pm Blueprint for Discipleship	13 	14 9am Indoor Farmer's Market	15 12pm Feed the Need Packing Event 8:30am Esther Circle 6pm Parents Date Night Out-Kids Night In
16 7:30pm UMM Men's Breakfast 10:30am Adult Sunday School 12:30pm Feed the Need Packing Event 4pm HS Fellowship	17 President's Day Carillon articles due 9am NIL Food Bank 7pm Strategy & Admin Team	18 5pm Women's Emmaus <i>off-site</i>	19 6pm Baker Kids 6:30pm Blueprint for Discipleship	20 1pm Women's Emmaus	21 9am Indoor Farmer's Market <div style="background-color: #add8e6; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Women's Retreat</div>	22
23 4pm MS Fellowship	24 	25	26 Ash Wednesday 1pm Sara-Ruth Circle 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	27	28 9am Indoor Farmer's Market	29



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

5-6pm | Wiley Hall

Regular meal option: \$6 Small meal option: \$4
Peanut Butter & Jam only option: \$2

FEBRUARY MENU

- 5 | Roast chicken and roasted winter vegetables
- 12 | Phoebe Circle cooks beef stew
Fundraiser for the youth's Summer work trip
- 19 | Creamy herb pork chops and potatoes
- 26 | Chicken fajitas, black beans, and rice



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS | 6-6:30pm | In the Chapel

An opportunity to be renewed and reconnect to God midweek



BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Valentine

BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, FEB 9

IN BAKER HALL BETWEEN SERVICES



Baker Kids is Back!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT BAKER

Baker Kids | 6-7:30pm

For kids Pre-K (potty trained) through 5th grade

NEW! Family First Wednesdays

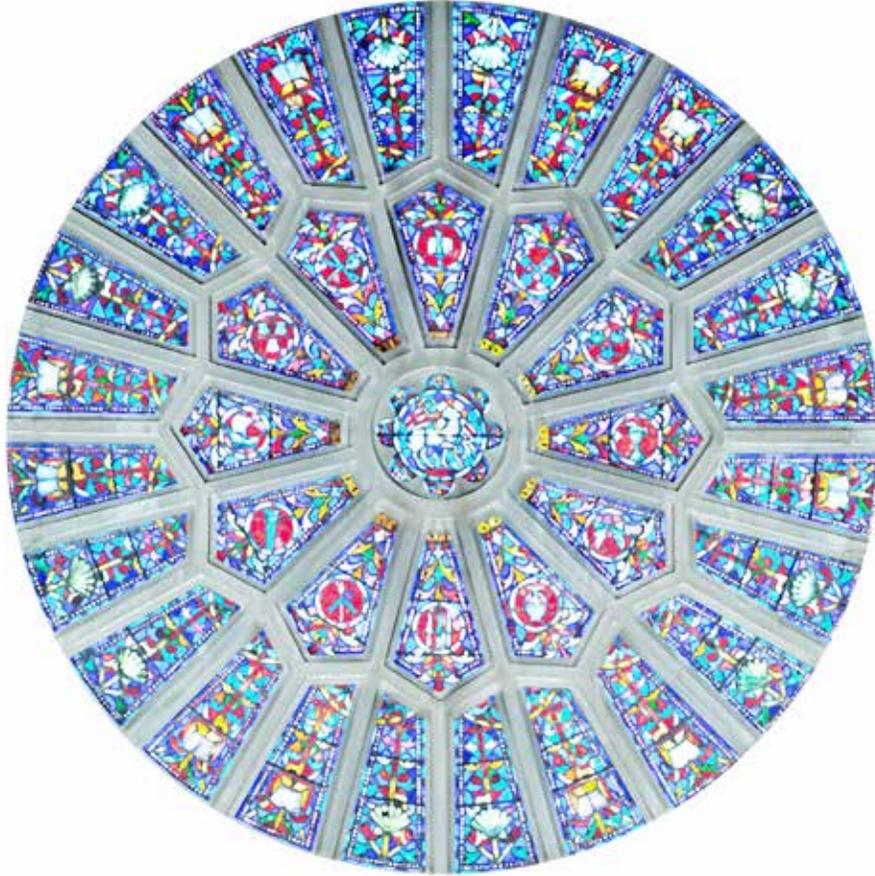
6-7:30pm | 9/11, 10/2, 11/6, 12/4, 2/5, 3/4 & 5/6

Bringing back family time!

Activities like Olympics, talent show, cookie decorating, etc.



bakerumc.org



STAFF

Rev. Mary Zajac | *Senior Pastor*

Jeffery Hunt | *Director, Music Ministry*

Mark Edwards | *Organist*

Shelly Stienbarger | *Director, Children & Family Ministry*

Kurt Heinz | *Director of Administration*

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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