

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE CARILLON

MARCH 2020

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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

Clear as Mud

*When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” Then he went and washed and came back able to see.
—John 9:6-7 (NRSV)*

One of our members attended a General Conference listening session recently to hear about the proposals for the future of the United Methodist Church. They came back saying it was confusing. Actually, they said it was just about as clear as mud. It seems to me that they chose an appropriate metaphor for where we are in the United Methodist Church today. The future is not at all clear. In a way we are blind to the future, unable to see the way forward until after the General Conference delegates meet from May 5-15 in Minneapolis.

I find some hope in realizing that in the passage quoted above, the clear-as-mud stage is the healing stage. The man in this passage was blind. He was born blind so he had never known anything else and he never asked for anything else. Jesus and the disciples were walking by when the disciples asked Jesus whose sin was responsible for the man’s blindness. Jesus answered that the man’s blindness was not connected to sin, but rather an opportunity to reveal God’s works. It only takes us a moment to realize that they were openly having this conversation near the man who could not see, and who thus may have been especially attuned to hearing. They talked about the man, rather than to the man. Right in the passage we see that people who were blind were marginalized. He was reduced to begging because society would not accept him; but even worse, his blindness made him invisible to other people. Even Jesus and the disciples didn’t acknowledge him.



Continued on page 2.

PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

The man who was blind was not seen as fully capable with self-determination. Something needed to change in that time and place. God's grace and power needed to be revealed.

Jesus went to the man, spat on the ground and made some mud. He smeared it on the eyes of the man who hadn't asked to see. Given the choice before he knew what sight was like, he might have chosen to remain blind. Change is rarely easy and people often choose to avoid it, but Jesus didn't give this man a choice. He told the man to go and wash the mud out of his eyes and when the man returned he could see. God's grace and power were revealed.

That mud was part of the healing the man didn't know he needed or wanted, but which in the context of the times would turn out to be a priceless blessing. He recognized Christ as God's Messiah. His life was forever changed as he was brought from marginalized participation in the community, to full participation. If you keep reading through the rest of John 9 you'll see that it wasn't easy, but it's hard to imagine he would ever have chosen to go back to the way things were.

I hope and pray that the United Methodist Church is in

a clear-as-mud healing stage. We ignored the fundamental difference between parts of the Church for a long time. We've talked about people rather than to them. We've allowed people to be marginalized. Many people didn't

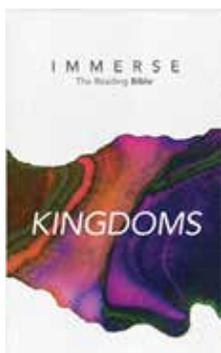
I truly hope that this is the mud stage and soon we'll be able to experience an amazing gift of wholeness we didn't think to ask for.

want the disruption of having to figure out who we are called to be, but maybe we needed it. I truly hope that this is the mud stage and soon we'll be able to experience an amazing gift of wholeness we didn't think to ask for.

There are many different paths before us. The differences between the plans that have been proposed are subtle. It is doubtful that any of the plans are complete enough to be adopted as a whole, rather elements of several different plans may need to come together to create something a little different than any of them. It's impossible to know what will happen and it's even difficult to figure out which way is likely to lead to blessing. But by God's grace, this may actually be the clear-as-mud time of healing. Lord, let it be so.

In Christ
Pastor Mary

Immerse: Kingdoms Begin the First Week of 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. See the list of groups, their date, time and location to the left.

Immerse: Kingdoms groups:

Day	Time	Location*
Sundays	9am	Parlor
	10:30am	Parlor
	11:30am	off-site
Mondays	11:30am	Parlor
	6:30pm	off-site
Tuesdays	6:30pm	Parlor
	6:30pm	off-site
Wednesdays	6:30pm	Parlor
Thursdays	7:30am	Parlor
Fridays	4:30pm	off-site

* For off-site locations and group leader information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/immersekingdoms> or contact Alan McCurdy at 847-309-6904 or amccurdy@valdeseng.com.

Note: The Young Adult Immerse group meets on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the church.

Children & Family Ministries

FOCUS: JESUS

► **Family Bible Verse:** *Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. —John 14:6 Deep Blue Kid's Bible CEB*

It's March, which means a very busy month with an over planned schedule of events. No matter how overwhelmed I might feel, I still look forward to this month because it reminds me of new birth, hope, and the promise of spring. Spring reminds me of God with the new birth of the farm animals, bird's sweet songs in the air, and the beauty in the colors of the tulips. God's love and works are always around us.

As you prepare for Easter, make sure you stop outside the Children's Center for print outs and activities about Lent for your family. If you are like me and love crafts, make sure you attend our Road to Easter Program on March 25. You don't have to be a kid to come, we can always use extra helping hands. Our family favorite is the Seder Dinner. It is a ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover. Join us this year and please invite young families to this event because it is designed for the children, but a family favorite for all. Lent is a time to focus on God and to remember Jesus died for us. It is also a time to celebrate Jesus who rose from the grave so we can have eternal life.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **3-7 years** | *Loving God, Loving Neighbor* | 9am
- **8-12 years** | *Bible Basics Storybook* | 9am
- **March 4** | Family First at 6pm | Dinner at 5pm
- **March 25** | Road to Easter Program at 6pm, Dinner at 5pm. Please RSVP.
- **Wednesday Night Baker Kids** | 6-7:30pm
- **June 22-26** | VBS: Knights of North Castle | 9-11:30am

THANK YOU!

- **February Teachers:** Chrissy Farley, Phillip & Rigel Nelson
- **February Shepherds:** Renee Whittenhall, Marti Tarmichael, Danielle Helland, Loretta & Dave Wilson
- **Nursery:** Mandy Hale, Jayne Scales, Lisa Fosse, Danni Killian, Catherine & Jade Rosenquist
- **Praise & Worship:** Melissa Arndt & Brooke Bayless
- **Wednesday BakerKid's:** Maggie Rivera & Becky Crow
- **Kid's Movie Night In:** Meg & Annie Bingham



· A Children & Family Ministry Event ·

ROAD TO EASTER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 | 6-7:30PM

Dinner 5-6pm | Easter Egg Hunt | Family Craft*

** Join us for a free meal at Wednesday Night Supper*

RSVP at: bit.ly/roadtoeaster20

Youth Ministry

March is a busy month with our final confirmation retreat, Living Intentionally taking place on March 6 and 7. We are also continuing on with confirmation classes, Sunday school, youth fellowships and preparations for the 2020 Work Trip. If you have not signed up yet, we need you to do so at your earliest convenience. We have to provide firm numbers to Motown Mission so they can begin their preparations and we need to reserve transportation and begin all of the processes that go into a successful work trip. Check your email or the youth website for a link to sign up and pay your trip deposit.

RUMMAGE SALE. We are beginning to field questions about the 2020 Rummage Sale, so let me detail that here, as well. The rummage sale is scheduled the week after Easter, April 19-25 and we need lots of volunteers. Be on the lookout for the electronic sign up and spread the word that we are receiving early donations on Sunday mornings in the Youth Center. If you absolutely have to have it out of your house, bring it by during our worship times and we will store it for our event. Every donation matters and we will give you a contribution receipt if you need one.

SOMETHING NEW & FUN. Finally, growing up in our church youth group, the two things we were most rewarded for was scripture memorization and attendance. Just showing up could win you all kinds of prizes and learning the scripture of the week or the chapter of the month might bring untold wealth. So, to continue that tradition, we are holding our



Start cleaning your closets out for the Rummage Sale!

own prize giveaway through the month of May. We have movie tickets, gift cards and even a pair of airpods for young people who attend Sunday school, youth fellowship, special events and memorize scriptures. Here's how it will work:

Every age-appropriate youth event you attend will get you one point. (i.e. middle school/high school)

Every weekly scripture you memorize will earn you two points.

We will present the awards for first, second and third place at May 31 service. Be sure to check the 5-Point Weekend Update for the scripture of the week.

In Christ,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry

Young Adult Ministry

IMMERSE AT ARCEDIUM. Immerse: Kingdoms is here and we are commencing our study on Wednesday at the church from 6:30-7:30pm for all who want to join. Previously, we met on Tuesday evenings at Arcadium. The coffee will be different, but we trust you'll feel the same welcome and grow together with us as we explore the scriptures.

MARCH MEETUP. Our meetup group continues to grow, both online and IRL at 100 Grapes. If you haven't joined us yet, make Saturday, March 14 the time to do so. Here's the link: <http://bit.ly/100grapes>

BOWLING OUTING. And since so many of our members love bowling, we're meeting from 3-5pm at St. Charles Bowl on March 21. Let's share some snacks, a few strikes and good times with friends. RSVP with me at cking@bakermemorialchurch.org so I can arrange the right amount of lanes.

Blessings,
Carl King
Director of Young Adult Ministry



Feed the Need Packing Event Update

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. Our congregation joined this effort by packing meals for the Northern Illinois Food Bank at North Central College in Naperville. We got word that the packing event provided meals to 2,876 children—which is 1,049,760 meals packed by nearly 5,000 volunteers!

Spread the word about this event so we can participate next year with even *more* Baker Memorial volunteers next year.

Seder Dinner, It's a Family Event

The entire church family is invited to attend the Seder Meal that commemorates the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover on April 9. The meal begins at 6pm followed by a Communion Service at 7:30pm. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Sign up in the church office or at <https://tinyurl.com/bakerseder2020>.

UMW March News

- **UMW Leadership Team** meets on March 4 at 9am.
- **Phoebe Circle** will be attending the UMW event on March 21.
- **Sarah Ruth Circle** meets on March 25 at 1pm.
- **Esther Circle** meets Saturday, February 15 at 8:30am
- **Lydia Circle** meets Tuesday, March 24 at 6pm.
- **Celebrating at the Well** | Saturday, March 21 | 8:30am-2pm | Wiley Hall | A day of spiritual renewal featuring acclaimed Christian speaker and author, Jane Rubietta. This event is co-sponsored by Aurora and Elgin District UMW. Registration forms are available at church, a link is in the Weekly Word and on the email cover page of this Carillon. Contact Pam Stare with questions.

UMM Events

- **Sunday, March 15** | 7:30am | UMW Men's Breakfast
Join us for food and fellowship on third Sundays.

Women's Retreat Recap

The Women's Retreat, *Here & Now*, was a big success last weekend. Women of all ages and backgrounds gathered for 23 hours at the beautiful Wesley Woods Retreat Center in Williams Bay Wisconsin.

A big thank you to the organizers!



Roof Repairs Have Begun!

Exciting news! Major repairs to our roof began on Monday, February 24. Of course, the weather does play a role so it's possible the work schedule could be effected.

This is a big project, and it will require scaffolding and equipment to be stationed around the outside of the church building. Our contractor understands that our building is a busy place, and access to the building, especially on Sundays, will be a top priority. There will be times when an entrance will be blocked due to the work. However, we will do our best to clearly mark such areas so that our members and visitors know to use other doors.

This \$493,000 project is being paid for by our insurance company, with our part being to cover the deductible amount of \$1,000. The work stems from hail damage that occurred during a storm in September, 2018. Since that time, our trustees have been working with our contractor, Baney Roofing, the Northern Illinois Conference, and Travelers Insurance to determine the extent of the damage and how to best approach the needs that were identified. The result is that all of the copper on the roof will be replaced and some broken slate tiles will be replaced as well.

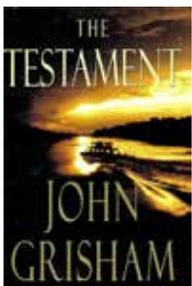
When our church was built, the roof was designed to last and, for the most part, it still admirably fulfills its intended purpose 65 years later. The original slate tiles are thicker than ones that are commonly used today so there is no



need to replace them. They will continue to do their job for many decades to come. All of the original gutters and downspouts are coated copper. These, along with all of the copper flashings on the roof, will be replaced with materials similar to the original materials. The old copper will be recycled.

We are thankful to God for giving us the patience and resources to tackle this formidable project, and we apologize in advance for the coming inconveniences. Depending on the weather, the work is scheduled to last six weeks, more or less. When completed, we can be confident that our beautiful church will remain a welcoming presence for those "here, near, and far away" for many years to come.

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 April 6 is *The Testament* by John Grisham. Sincere, honest and tinged with wonder, Grisham uses the suspense novel format that made him famous to explore questions of being and faith. While

the St. Charles library is closed for the month, members are encouraged to seek copies at other area libraries as reciprocal borrowers. Check with their circulation desks for more information. All are invited to join in the lively discussion. For information, contact Shelley Campbell at sscbooks@sbcglobal.net.

Help Wanted!

Do you love children? Have grown children and miss when they were little? You're in luck because we could

occasionally use your helping hands in the Nursery during the 9am service. If you are available as a substitute, please call 808-489-7709 or see Shelly Stienbarger.

Congratulations to Jeff Hunt!

Our very own Jeff Hunt has been named as a 2020 inductee into the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame, in the performing arts/music category. The Hall of Fame was founded in 2001 to give public recognition to artists associated with the Fox Valley by birth, education, residence, or service who have achieved national or international acclaim.

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

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. 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)

MISSIONS MINISTRY COOKS WNS ON MARCH 4

We're cooking dinner on March. Please join us at Wednesday Night Supper from 5-6pm for our baked potato bar, chili and salads. The proceeds will go to our Cambodia missionary fund. We hope to see you there!

JOIN US AT THE FOOD BANK THIS MONTH

The next NIL Food Bank volunteer date is March 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

LAZARUS COOKING

Every month a team meets on the 2nd Tuesday to prepare meals for 60 that reside at Lazarus house. Two thirds of those we feed are men and one third are women and children. In February the team assembled salad and baked cakes and ordered take out from Just Kabobs! There is a

fund for Lazarus cooking and twice a year we like to treat Lazarus guests to take out! Who doesn't enjoy take out?

The Adult Mission Team added \$500 to this fund from their Silent Auction last fall. If you would like to join the cooking team or donate food they will cook, please contact Chris at cstumpf0308@gmail.com.

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Every month another team of volunteers delivers meals to seniors on third Tuesdays. There is a short orientation that is required and then volunteers are given a badge and deliver meals that are needed and appreciated! Would you consider being a volunteer? Substitutes are especially needed and would only deliver occasionally to sub for a regular that cannot deliver that week! If this is something you could do please contact Marge Meanger at marjorieme@att.net.

GIFT CARD, SUITCASE & INCIDENTALS PROGRAM FOR KIDS BIRTH TO 21!

Imagine a child having to leave their home and face months or years of court because of their home situation! Many of you know about the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program that trains volunteers to be advocates and help children during this 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 of needed items and bring donations to church 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/certificates (Aurora and Elgin)
- Movie passes (AMC and Goodrich)

MARCH MISSIONS PROJECT!



MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9am Worship 9am Sunday School: Children, MS & HS 9am Immerse 10:30am Immerse 10:30am Jazz Worship 10:30am Confirmation	7pm Scout Troop 14 11:30am Immerse	11:30am Day Guest Lunch 11:30am Kiwanis 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Immerse 8pm Alcoholics Anonymous	5pm Wednesday Night Supper 5pm Chapel Choir & Wesley Singers 6pm Wed. Worship 6pm Chancel Bells 6:30pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm Immerse 6:30pm YA Immerse	7:30am Immerse 11:30am 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 Immerse: Kingdoms study begins 11:30am Immerse, <i>off-site</i> 4pm HS Fellowship	2 1pm One O'Clock Book Club 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i> 7pm Spiritual Formation & Discipleship	3 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	4 9am UMW Leadership Meeting 6pm Family First	5	6 4pm Confirmation Retreat 4:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	7 Esther Circle, <i>off-site</i>
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins 11:30am Immerse, <i>off-site</i> 12pm Membership Class 4pm MS Fellowship	9 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	10 3:30pm Laz House Cooking 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	11 6pm Baker Kids	12	13 9am Indoor Farmer's Market 4:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	14 4pm Young Adults @100 Grapes
15 7:30pm UMM Men's Breakfast 11:30am Immerse, <i>off-site</i> 2pm BakerYouth Variety Show	16 9am NIL Food Bank 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i> 7pm Strategy & Admin Team	17 St. Patrick's Day 5pm Women's Emmaus <i>off-site</i> 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	18 6pm Baker Kids	19	20 Carillon articles due 9am Indoor Farmer's Market 4:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	21 8:30am UMW Event: Day of Spiritual Growth
22 11:30am Immerse, <i>off-site</i> 4pm MS Fellowship	23 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	24 6pm Lydia Circle 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	25 1pm Sara-Ruth Circle 6pm Baker Kids	26 1pm Women's Emmaus	27 9am Indoor Farmer's Market 4:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	28 9am Baptism Class 3pm Young Adult Bowling
29 11:30am Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	30 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>	31 6:30pm Immerse, <i>off-site</i>				

LENT SERMON SERIES

BOOT CAMP FOR THE *Soul*



We all know that there comes a point when something needs to change for our physical health. Sometimes, the change needs to be worked in the soul

Holy Week

Sunday, April 5 | 9 & 10:30am

Palm Sunday Services

Thursday, April 9 | 6pm | Seder Meal

Please register in advance

Friday, April 10 | 7pm

Good Friday Service

Music: *Carols and Candles*

Sunday, April 12 | 7, 9 & 10:30am

Easter Celebration Services



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

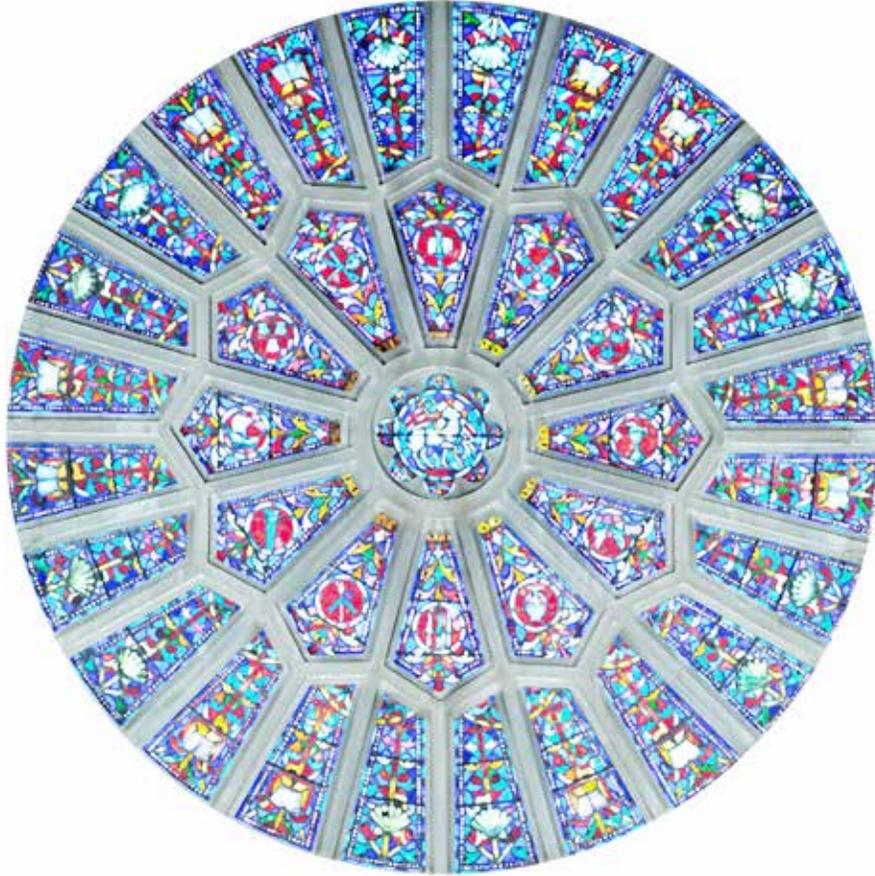


RUMMAGE SALE

APRIL 22, 24 & 25

THURS 4-7PM • FRI 10AM-3PM • SAT 9AM-NOON

SATURDAY: \$5 BAG SALE & DEEPLY DISCOUNTED LARGE ITEMS!
PROCEEDS GO TO THE BAKERYOUTH SUMMER WORK TRIP



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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