

BAKER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CARILLON

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The Carillon is a monthly publication available in print, on-line 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

Staying Connected—at a Distance

One thing is for sure, we are learning a lot as we navigate these strange and difficult times; perhaps most of all how to stay connected at a distance. We've probably all been on the phone/video calls more in the end of March than we ever have been before. Technology can be difficult to use. It can also be quite damaging to relationships as people sit at the same table and interact with their phones. However in the era of COVID-19 our technology is a blessing. Thank God for giving people, who really shouldn't be entirely alone (Genesis 2:18), the ability to stay connected through technology.

Baker Memorial Church is using technology quite a lot these days.

- The staff has attempted to reach everyone in the congregation by phone or email.
- I post something to think about on our Baker Memorial Church Facebook and website (bakermemorialchurch.org) almost every day.
- We are recording our worship services and getting them out to you through multiple channels (Facebook, Email, Website, and Text).
- The Chancel Choir met by phone late in March to sing at the same time. It wasn't quite the same thing as singing together in a room but it was wonderful to hear Mark Edwards play the piano from his home while everyone else sang in their homes. It would have been even better if we could hear it together!
- We've also started a pray-around-the clock effort you can sign up for at <https://tinyurl.com/pray-always>. There are only a few slots left so please sign up soon!
- We are even going to restart our Immerse: Kingdoms small groups. Every group will determine what technology to use so watch for a note from your group leader. If you aren't signed up yet, I would be happy to start a new group at the beginning of the study. Just email me at pastormary@bakermemorialchurch.org.



We can do quite a lot to stay connected at a distance. However, one thing we cannot

Continued on page 2.

PASTOR MARY'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1.

do is celebrate communion. I've had some people ask if we could each get a piece of bread and a cup of juice in our own homes to celebrate. Sadly the answer is, no we cannot. Communion is about the gathered body of Christ being nurtured together at Christ's table. It's about standing together as one body despite our differences. It's about sharing the body of Christ to be knit together as one body.

Waiting helps build up the spiritual gifts of patience, self-control, and even kindness.

I have no doubt that you will hear about other churches celebrating communion over the internet. You may even hear about a Methodist church celebrating communion over the internet. However, based on my reading of many articles over the last weeks, Methodist theology actually wouldn't recognize that kind of shared meal as communion. Also, Bishop Sally Dyke has advised the clergy in the Northern Illinois Conference not to celebrate over the internet. As for us, we will wait

I have no doubt that you will hear about other churches celebrating communion over the internet. You may even hear about a Methodist

eagerly to gather together and celebrate communion as we celebrate the end of the shelter-in-place policies.

There is value in the waiting. We are blessed in this country to have access to almost anything we want whenever we want it. We have come to expect our desires to be met quickly. Waiting will remind us that God works differently. God does not bend to our desires, we are to bend to God's desires. God's time is not the same as our time; waiting is an expected part of our faith practice. We've been waiting for almost 2000 years for Christ to return. Waiting helps build up the spiritual gifts of patience, self-control, and even kindness.

I am looking forward to the day we can all gather together in our sanctuary once more. I do not know when that will be, but I do know that we will celebrate communion and it will be a great blessing.

Please take good care of yourselves and each other during this time. If you need anything do not hesitate to reach out and connect from a distance.

In Christ,
Pastor Mary

Can You Solve This Puzzle?

There are 29 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends...One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo, Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the



difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

► *The answer will run in the May issue of The Carillon.*

Children & Family Ministries

FOCUS: GOD'S BEAUTY...CALLING ALL ARTISTS... THIS MEANS YOU!

▶ **Family Bible Verse:** *You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.* —Nehemiah 9:6

We are now in the “Great Hunkering Down” of spring. Normally in the Midwest we hunker down in winter. Times of hunkering down or times of isolation, usually brings out artist’s best works of art. As we all have extra time on our hands, let’s be inspired by God’s creation. Find the artist in you to create an original work of art. When we are able to once again sing and worship side-by-side, I would love to showcase your works of art in Baker Hall during the Fellowship hour. Take a photo and send it to me [sstienbarger@bakermemorialchurch.org](mailto:ssstienbarger@bakermemorialchurch.org), or bring it with when we finally meet again. Let me know what types of creations you are working on!

You don’t have to be limited to pen, pencil, or paints.

- Art could be captured with your camera or on your smartphone. As you walk your dog or take a walk, pause and stop to see God’s beauty.
- Or maybe canvas could be through a new skill you found cutting your sons hair. Take a before and after photo to show the new skills you didn’t have before social distancing.
- I know we have master builders in the Lego world. So, kids tell your parents that Miss Shelly said you had homework in your Engineering Class and create something awesome!
- My daughter Teagan found God’s beauty through her stomach. She made delicious banana bread from over ripened bananas.
- April is National Poetry Month. Try your hand at writing a poem with 100 characters or a Haiku. Think deep, or not. See the beauty of life all around us, or just be



Teagan spent some of her hunker down time baking banana bread.



Pastor Mary’s Facebook message on March 25 inspired Melissa Arndt to get creative and paint these fantastic windows with her kids. Check out the church FB page for daily messages, inspiration and to stay connected with your church family.

inspired to begin. NPR wants to help celebrate poet’s original poems to feature them on-line all month. Tweet them #NPRpoetry.

Be creative, try something new, or try something you have always wanted to do. I know there are closets that would love to be made over. Remember, art is in the eye of the beholder.

Even though we are not in church or side-by-side worship, God is everywhere. So the next time you are outside, thank Him through a prayer for the bees, flowers, and the trees. My favorite is to thank God for the laughter outside my windows when children are playing outside.

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

THANK YOU!

- March Teachers: Pete Helland, Jon Zenker, & Chrissy Farley
- March Shepherds: Pete Holmes, Renee Whittenhall, Loretta & Dave Wilson
- Nursery: Danni Killian, Catherine & Jade Rosenquist
- Praise & Worship: Melissa Arndt & Brooke Bayless
- Wednesday Night BakerKid’s: Maggie Rivera

MISSIONS CORNER

Opportunities to Serve or Contribute

DINNER RAISED FUNDS FOR OUR MISSIONARY

The Cambodia baked potato Wednesday Night Supper earned \$320 towards our commitment to our Missionary in Cambodia, Clara Biswas! As a congregation we have committed to send \$2500 each year to the Global Board of Missions and another \$1000 directly to Clara's Street Children Ministry! Thank you if you donated, cooked, served, cleaned up or ate! Every effort is appreciated!

CASA COLLECTION FUNDRAISER POSTPONED

The CASA Kane County collection drive has been postponed. Please save the gift cards, suitcases and backpacks you may have purchased until further notice. We will let you know when we will resume collecting, once the church building has re-opened.

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. You could even order online now have it sent to your door. Bring donations in when we announce the new collection date.

Items Needed for CASA Children:

- 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)

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Meals On Wheels is still delivering in April. Every month a 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.

LAZARUS COOKING

Every month a team meets on the second Tuesday to prepare meals for 60 that reside at Lazarus house. April is no exception. However, we can not use the church kitchen to prepare as the church building has not re-opened. Please contact Chris at cstumpf0308@gmail.com. Help and donation details will be sent via the Sign Up Genius around April 6th.

Youth Ministry

Hello everyone,

Now that the federal government has given clear guidance that social distancing rules will extend through April 30, we are officially canceling the rummage sale. As many know, this fundraiser is a crucial part of our efforts leading up to the summer work trip, however the primary concern is always the safety and well-being of our congregation and community members.

We have spoken to Savers and our plan for now is to host a one-day donation drive at the church on Saturday, June 20. This will not earn us the same amount, but will help to offset the cost of our work trip. All of the bags and boxes you have been holding on to can be brought to Baker, we'll load them up, and drive them out to Carol Stream. Fortunately, their program for organizations

called Fundrive is still going strong and we can earn a payment for the items we bring. We are asking for clothing, books, small appliances, jewelry, dishes, toys and small items. Savers does not accept large furniture or large appliances for this program.

At this point, if you are able and available, we will need a few volunteers to sign up for loading items on June 20th. In the meantime, let us remember to be in prayer for one another and stay safe. Thank you for working with us.

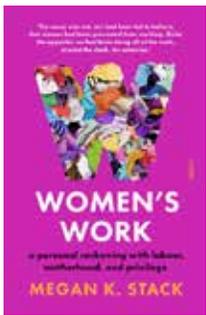
Blessings to you,
Carl King
Director of Youth Ministry

A Gentle Word About Giving



The work of God continues at and through Baker Memorial UMC in these difficult times. Our staff is hard at work seeking to check-in with the whole congregation on a regular basis. Our work with our Day Guests not only continues but has expanded for people who are homeless. We are learning how to do worship on-line. As you are able, please seek to keep up with your giving during this time, or even accelerate it so we can continue to meet our payroll and bills. We understand that some people will not be able to do this and are working to manage spending accordingly. All of you are in our prayers.

One O'Clock Book Group for May



The group will not be meeting April. This book discussion group meets in the Parlor at 1pm on the first Monday of each month (except Labor Day). Our May selection is *Women's Work* by Megan K. Stack. In this stunning memoir by a National Book Award finalist, Stack tells the tale of raising her children abroad with the help of

Chinese and Indian women who are also working mothers. Focusing on four unforgettable women, Stack meditates on the issues of marriage, motherhood, feminism and privilege.

While the St. Charles library is closed, members are encouraged to borrow a copy or obtain a Kindle version. As things keep changing, we will have to re-evaluate whether we can meet in May when we get closer to the date. For information, contact Shelley Campbell at sscbooks@sbcglobal.net.

Feed My Starving Children MobilePack

On February 15 & 16, Baker Memorial sent a team to support Feed My Starving Children's MobilePack event. The team was Isie & Ken Barclay, John Clarke, Steve Coon, Betty Erickson, Kurt Heinz, Alan McCurdy, Jan McPeak, Dann & Kim Starr, Loretta & Dave Wilson with Orrin & Tate, and Mary & Jim Zajac. Many organizations worked the event, including churches, sports teams and businesses.

On the front-end, this effort was kicked off by Lynette Dummer by attended planning meetings and registered the team. Pete Holmes agreed to fund the effort with a generous pledge the Holmes endowment, although he was

unable to work at the event due to illness.

The event was well organized, efficient and followed good food preparation practices. The mobile packages were filled with scoops from four bins of rice, soy, vitamins, veggies. Each package was weighed, sealed and boxed. Supported by event, staff, logistics worker and music, the workstation that the Sun Baker team supported packed at least 12 boxes of 18 meals (over 200 meals).

Here are some impressions from Baker's team:

- Pete Holmes: I talked with my sister Sunday and mentioned that I was not able to participate in a FMHC project. She was very familiar with the project in Minneapolis and has worked there.
- Steve Coon: I was most impressed with the enthusiasm and the well-organized efforts of the FMSC staff. The overall layout and individual workstations were worthy lean manufacturing models. The production challenges were complimented by heart pounding music to get the juices flowing, I mean powders flowing. Of course, the team spirit generated by our church family certainly capped off a pleasurable outing. All in all, it was one of the most enjoyable intense work outings I have ever experienced. It was in a word a BLAST.
- Loretta Wilson: Orrin and Tate said it was a lot of fun to help pack the meals and the challenges were fun. It was a wonderful group of people.
- Isie Brindley: This was Ken's first time at FMSC, my second. The feeling you get from knowing your two-hour effort fed 538 children for one year cannot be described. It makes you truly grateful for the gift of food on our table every night!



The roof repairs remain on schedule and are looking great. Currently, they are working on the Main St. side of the building.

God's Love Bridges Social Distancing

A reflection by Joe Iovino

United Methodists are accustomed to being together. We trace our roots back to a group of college students who gathered to encourage one another in their spiritual journeys. In the early days of the church, Methodists often met without a pastor “to watch over one another in love.” Nearly 300 years after those students first assembled, our churches continue to gather for worship, small groups, Sunday school, potluck suppers, choir rehearsals and so much more.

In recent days, however, we're missing our connection to our siblings in Christ. Due to calls for social distancing to help stem the spread of COVID-19 and the coronavirus, our church buildings are closed and all gatherings postponed or canceled. Technology helps, but it's just not the same as sitting in the same room together.

While we may feel a bit alone during this time apart, it is good to remember that God's love is big enough to bridge the gaps created by social distancing.

REMOTE HEALING. In John 4, a father who works as a royal official approaches Jesus and asks him to come to his house to heal his dying son. Jesus replies, “Go home. Your son lives.” On the father's way home, some people come out from his house to meet him. They say, “Your son lives!”

Curious about what's happened, the father asks what time his son got better. “The fever left him yesterday at about one o'clock in the afternoon,” they say. The same time Jesus told him his son would live.

Most of the time, Jesus' healings include some physical contact. He touches a leper. A woman reaches out for the hem of his robe. He makes mud and places it on a blind man's eyes.

That's not the only way, however. There's a similar story about a centurion's servant receiving a healing from afar

(see Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10). Sometimes, Jesus spoke a word like, “Your sins are forgiven,” and a man who couldn't walk got up off his mat and ambled home. In this story, Jesus didn't even need to be in the same room.

FAR FROM US. Spending time away from our churches, routines, friends and families, can make us feel isolated and alone—not only from one another, but also from God.

I'm sure that's how this dad felt when Jesus told him, “Go home.” He'd asked Jesus to come to heal his son. Jesus wasn't coming. Did that mean God was far from him?



What the dad learned is that God's love can cover the distance, because God is already there. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Even when we feel distant alone and far from God, we are not.

NEW WAYS. In these lonely days of working from home, bingeing Netflix in our pajamas, keeping children occupied and learning, and video-calling friends and family, it is good to remember that God's love can bridge the distance between us. Even when we cannot be together physically, we can continue to care for one another.

May you and I find ways to know and share the love of Jesus, even while we are apart.

Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. This story was published on March 25, 2020.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

See our messages on **Facebook** at
Baker Memorial United Methodist Church
and **Bakermemorialchurch.org**



Easter Word Search

Q O Q F Q N W O V V Y W Q P T I G Y I T
B A F A E F U P C W V J R X S S Q C F S
V S L F O Q U A V U K V S Y Z A V O N J
D U S J A W X M P B V Z P I U L G C Y K
S H Q W A P Q V T O A Z W H D B L X S Y
S R G M N T C C Q X S S B Y H K W V P F
R I Z I B I J X H V W T K V Z J M B F I
E S X V L O F I E O I L L E S J M G Q E
S E L L Q A N H S J C L C E T E L J E G
U N X E Y C M N E D E O K G S L S D A G
R S T N Y N D B E P R S L Y Y L A W N H
R F I T K P B T B T B J U A N Y C X G U
E X V W N Z S V C R O S S S T B R J E N
C H P J Q C E Z H M O F H V P E I K L T
T O P E S W K K Q M A B A Y L A F Q S S
I Y I D E V Q Z G J U A F W C N I O I S
O X H I X P Q P G I L D P R A Y C H X X
N O G B A R S X R S U Z D G S R E U J C
R F C A I A Q A F D M V L O T O E C N U
T D G E D Q E P U F Y C H V X D N O J X

RESURRECTION

CHOCOLATE

JELLYBEAN

APOSTLES

EGG HUNT

SACRIFICE

BASKET

BONNET

ANGELS

CROSS

JESUS

RISEN

PEEPS

PRAY

LAMB

LENT



Holy Week

Please join us
in celebrating.
Here's what you
can do to join in!

@home

Palm Sunday | April 5

Take a picture or very short gif/mp4 video of someone waving something green. It may look like a palm, or it may look like a pillow, whatever you have that is green! Alternatively, take a picture of a path of coats laid on the ground to signify that Christ is invited to come to your home. Also, please find a largish rock and bring it inside where you can see it.

Facebook Life Event | April 6 | 7pm

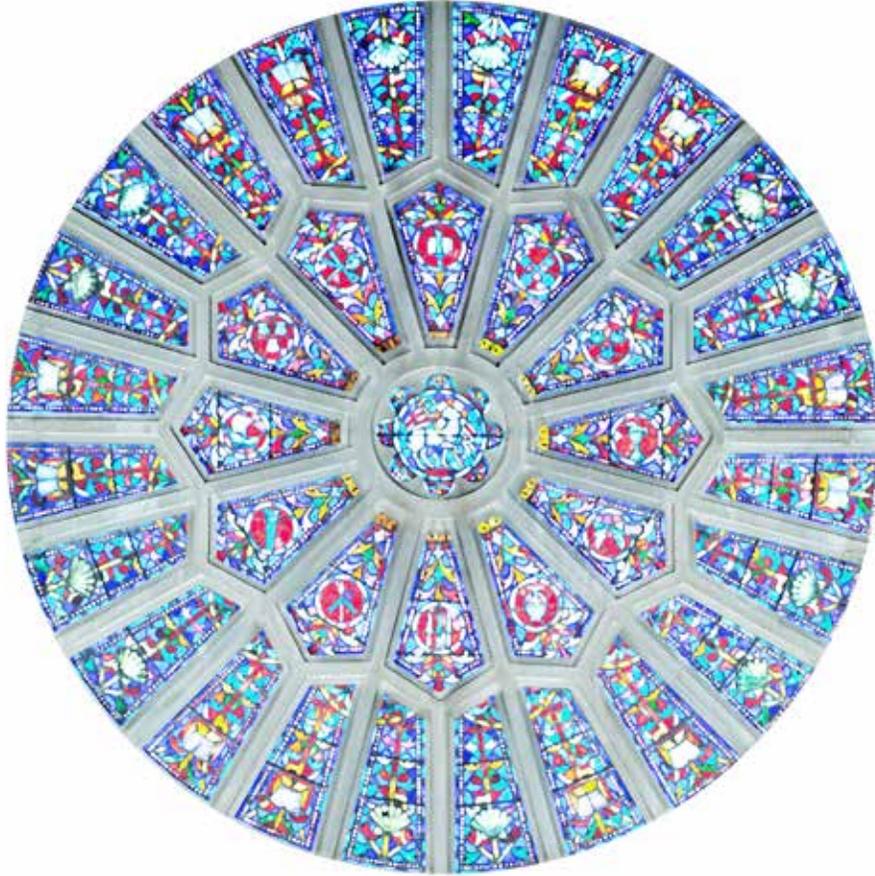
You're invited to join us at 7pm for a Facebook Live gathering for prayer and church news.

Good Friday | April 10

We had a candlelight and Easter Carols service planned and so we will do something similar using video. Start searching your homes for eight candles so that you can follow along. We will post the service on our website and Facebook page some time Friday. I am hoping that we can create a Facebook Watch Party at 7pm on Friday evening so we can watch together.

Easter Sunday | April 12

We cannot gather on this joyful day, but we can all celebrate the resurrection. Send a picture of some beautiful flowers and we'll use them as a backdrop for our video recordings! We will enjoy the flowers that were planned for Easter when we gather. More on this service later!



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*

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A traditional church for a modern world

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